

Kensington & Chelsea News

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TUESDAY OCTOBER 4 2016

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Bloom success for borough

KENSINGTON and Chelsea is celebrating its success at this year's London in Bloom awards with a bunch of prizes. The royal borough has been a keen supporter of London in Bloom for many years and this year it gained a Silver Gilt award overall. But there were a host of Gold and Silver awards for the parks of the borough.

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Kensington crime figures

THERE were 1,685 crimes recorded by the Met in Kensington and Chelsea in July, a marginal increase on June (1,675 crimes) and May (1,666)

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Pupils at Colville Primary School joined schools across the UK to form into a mass dance troop in celebration of World School Milk Day today. As part of an initiative promoted by The Dairy Council, pupils and teachers at Colville Primary School in Notting Hill got moving and shaking to celebrate the white stuff and learn about the key role that milk plays in keeping children healthy. See page 11

Council plea to house refugees

Only one home found in borough with 2,000 empty properties

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Council has renewed its desperate plea to private landlords to help it find homes for 50 Syrian refugees after a year of failure with the humanitarian mercy mission.

Although only one home has been offered those fleeing the war zone there are believed to be around 2,000 empty properties in the royal borough.

As new official figures have revealed that the five-year public cost of resettling refugees in the borough could be more than £4 million, the Council is urgently appealing for landlords to come forward and help it meet its pledge to give new homes to

families escaping the bloody hell of the war.

The Council committed to take in 50 refugees last October under the Government's rescue plan – but one year on and room for only one family has been found.

The Council has still to find homes for 47 other Syrians, but because of the pressure on social housing in the borough it has no council homes going spare and it has been forced to rely on the generosity of private landlords – of whom only one has been found in 12 months.

Because of high housing prices and existing pressures on Council and housing association properties the refugees need to be housed in private rented accommodation.

But at market rents such accommodation is too expensive for refugees to afford, so its ability to accept refugees in Kensington and Chelsea rests on the generosity of private sector landlords willing to provide suitable accommodation at lower rents than they would normally charge.

"Last October the Council agreed that the Royal Borough should offer to resettle 50 refugees from Syria. Since then it has worked with the RBKC Refugees Welcome Committee to identify suitable properties and private sector landlords who would be willing to provide accommodation at a Local Housing Allowance rate, rather than a private mar-

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The new chairman of the Royal Parks charity, Lloyd Grossman opens the previous toilet block that has become the Italian Gardens Cafe in Kensington Gardens - page 6

Reaching out through dance

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A PROFESSIONAL choreographer from Fulham who has worked with some of the biggest names in showbusiness is using his passion for dance to break down barriers in the community.

Thomas Michael Voss has orchestrated dance routines for the likes of Mariah Carey and Lily Allen – but also wants to challenge stereotypes about disability, old age and homelessness.

The 43-year-old recently ended a West End run working with a star-studded cast on the European stage premiere of F Scott Fitzgerald's final novel *The Last Tycoon*.

His long list of choreography credits also includes the Simon Pegg film *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People*, pop videos for the Scissor Sisters, Muse and Craig David as well as a host of theatrical productions.

But his dedication to his art goes beyond the bounds of showbiz glamour – Mr Voss has also spent weeks and months behind the scenes teaching dance to the over 55s and London's homeless.

His latest project – *Quaestio*, a performance for next year's Resolution dance festival – aims to tackle stereotypes around disability and masculinity.

The cast will feature a company of 10 plus one disabled dancer, whose movements will form the main "vocabulary" of the piece.

"Resolution is all about looking for fresh ideas and people who will push the boundaries a little bit," says Mr Voss, who also teaches ballroom dancing in Fulham.

"I wanted to do something different by using the dancer's disability



Thomas Michael Voss

Photo by Robert Taylor

and his distorted positions and lines as the main vocabulary.

"This is the first piece where I have used a disabled dancer but I have got a big heart and as an artist I have a soft spot for things like that."

Mr Voss was inspired to tackle the subject after a chance meeting with a disabled comedian in Liverpool Street.

He discovered that the man had injured his spinal cord in a motorbike accident, leading to restricted movement in his legs and arms.

Mr Voss adds: "I was so mesmerised by him that I approached him and became very inspired and felt like I had the urge to create a dance piece incorporating disability."

It's not the first time the German-born dancer has used the art form to take on taboo subjects.

He took part in a research project with the Royal Academy of Dance – *Dance For Lifelong Wellbeing* – which set out to prove that developing new methods for learning skills such as dance could prevent the onset of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

"Part of the research programme was to look at ways of using different parts of the brain which are less cognitive but more creative," he says.

"It's all through visualisation and learning how to dance in creative ways - using a different approach to how you normally learn to dance."

Mr Voss says his ballroom dancing classes have always been popular with the older generation – but that he has noticed a growing confidence in his students in recent years.

"Older people are more conscious not to become isolated now. They are more confident and encourage themselves to keep going with their activities," he adds.

"They are not afraid of trying things out or learning new things. It's the courage and enthusiasm that has changed. Strictly Come Dancing always helps as well!"

Mr Voss has never appeared on the hit BBC show but did help to coach jockey Richard Dunwoody in series seven and has choreographed several of the programme's distinctiveidents.

He says the show has helped to open up the world of dance to many more people.

"What it has done over the last 11 years is create a stronger awareness of dance and the benefits of dance, and that men can dance and do not need to feel self-conscious about it," he says.

"It has equalised it to other sports whereas before people belittled dance."

Born in Wuppertal, near Düsseldorf, Mr Voss now lives in Parsons Green. He is set to make his debut as an assistant director in the forthcoming musical production of *The Great Gatsby* at Leicester Square Theatre.

Thomas Michael Voss is on Twitter - @FosseyBear - and more information is available on his website - www.tmvoss.co.uk. Mr Voss is appealing for people to sponsor or donate towards *Quaestio*.

End of the old routine?

THE traditional childhood routine of bath, book and bed could be dying out in London, according to a new study.

Researchers carried out an in-depth analysis of parents' bedtime routines and discovered that almost three quarters of mothers and fathers opt for a shower instead of a bath.

A similar number were more likely to turn to television or iPads to help their kids wind down in the evening than traditional reading material.

And when it comes to 'lights out', more than half of parents said their children had no set bedtime with nine out of 10 admitting that they let them stay up too late.

Psychologist Dr Becky Spelman said: "Children need a lot more sleep than adults. Their bodies are growing and their minds are developing.

"Without sleep they risk poor school performance, poor social skills and a range of other problems."

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£337,000 grant for museum

LEIGHTON House Museum, the former home and studio of eminent Victorian artist and President of the Royal Academy Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896), has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £337,000 towards the planning and development of the final phase of its restoration programme.

In 2010 the major restoration of Leighton House Museum, in Holland Park Road, was completed to bring the historic house back to its original glory. The intention was to recreate the exotic interiors that Leighton devised and furnishing them as he intended.

Following this award-winning project, the museum will now embark on a third and final phase concentrating on the extensions added to the east end of the building, first in the late 1920s and then in the mid-1950s, long after Leighton's death.

The support from National Lottery will allow the museum to begin detailed planning and development of a scheme that will transform all aspects of the visitor experience. Public areas will be increased by over a third with new facilities created including an additional exhibition gallery, new learning and interpretation spaces and the restoration of the original fabric of the building lost within the later extensions.

The Friends of Leighton House will play a leading role in fundraising for the project with Sir David Verey CBE agreeing to become the chairman and Lady Verey as vice chair.

Sir David is a former chairman of the Trustees of the Tate and the Art Fund and is currently the Lead non-Executive Director at the Department of Culture Media and Sport and a member of the Council of the British Council.

Knighted in the 2015 New Year Honours for services to arts philanthropy, Sir David brings a wealth of experience to the role, and as a local resident together with Lady Verey, has had a long-term interest in Leighton House Museum.

To mark the beginning of this new chapter in the history of the museum, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has announced that Viscount Linley, has agreed to be Patron of Leighton House Museum and its sister museum 18 Stafford Terrace.

Viscount Linley is Honorary Chairman for Christie's in Europe, the Middle East, Russia and India and as a leading furniture maker has a keen interest in the history of interior design.

He is the great-great-grandson of Edward Linley Sambourne who lived at 18 Stafford Terrace from 1875. Together with Leighton House, 18 Stafford Terrace, is now owned and operated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and is preserved as a unique example of a Victorian artistic interior.

Brompton and Hans Town top of the crime statistics

COUNCIL INVESTS £14 MILLION IN COMMUNITY POLICING

NEW figures released by the Met reveal that the Brompton and Hans Town ward is the worst place to live in Kensington and Chelsea for crime.

Crime figures for July show that the ward, which includes the area around Harrods, had the highest number of incidents and was the worst area in the royal borough for burglaries and car crime.

There were 1,685 crimes recorded by the Met in the borough in July, a marginal increase on June (1,675 crimes) and May (1,666).

In neighbouring boroughs for July there were 1,759 crimes recorded in Hammersmith and Fulham, 2,358 in Wandsworth and 4,549 in Westminster.

But Kensington and Chelsea Council is determined to fight crime in the royal borough and has spent almost £3 million in the last two years on putting more bobbies on the beat to stop wrong-doing.

"The council works closely with the police and local community to help prevent and tackle crime. In the past year we have run crime prevention campaigns designed to raise awareness of burglary and car crime and will continue to target these important areas."

"The council has invested £14m per annum since November 2014 to provide the Kensington and Chelsea Community Policing Team which increases the visible police presence on the borough's streets."

Of all of the Kensington and Chelsea wards, Brompton and Hans Town was the most hit by criminals with 229 crimes recorded - 200 more than the most crime-free ward of Norland, where 29 incidents were recorded.

In Brompton and Hans Town, there were 38 violent attacks, 55 incidents of anti-social behaviour, 35 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 12 burglaries and 3

robberies.

In Norland, police recorded two burglaries, six thefts of or from motor vehicles, 11 violent attacks and six acts of anti-social behaviour.

The crime figures for other wards were:

Abingdon - 4 burglaries, 16

thefts of or from motor vehicles, 2 personal robberies, 22 violent attacks at 16 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Campden - 4 burglaries, 9 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 18 violent attacks, 16 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Chelsea Riverside - 4 burglaries, 13 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 1 robbery, 26 violent attacks and 26 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Colville - 6 burglaries, 9 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 3 robberies, 41 violent attacks and 42 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Courtfield - 10 burglaries, 14 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 1 robbery, 17 violent attacks and 22 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Dalgarno - 1 burglary, 6 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 5 robberies, 33 violent attacks and 38 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Earls Court - 11 burglaries, 5 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 1 robbery, 35 violent attacks and 31 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Golborne - 5 burglaries, 4 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 53 violent attacks and 56 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Holland - 7 burglaries, 7 thefts of or



from motor vehicles, 2 robberies, 9 violent attacks and 19 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Notting Dale - 6 burglaries, 6 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 4 robberies, 40 violent attacks and 34 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Pembridge - 11 burglaries, 7 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 1 robbery, 20 violent attacks and 30 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Queen's Gate - 4 burglaries, 11 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 1 robbery, 8 violent attacks and 17 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Redcliffe - 8 burglaries, 13 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 15 violent attacks and 19 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Royal Hospital - 5 burglaries, 20 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 4 robberies, 25 violent attacks and 33 acts of anti-social behaviour.

St Helen's - 7 burglaries, 11 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 2 robberies, 15 violent attacks and 7 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Stanley - 1 burglary, 21 thefts of or from motor vehicles, 1 robbery, 19 violent attacks and 33 acts of anti-social behaviour.

Private landlords showing little sympathy

■ FROM PAGE ONE

ket rate," said a Council spokesman.

"We knew that this would not be an easy task as we are the second smallest borough in the country with some of the most expensive housing, both for sale and rent.

"A family of three arrived in August and are being supported by the council and its partners in the voluntary sector to settle into life in the borough.

"Their flat has been generously provided by a private landlord at a considerably lower rent than what would be charged if it was on the private market.

"Our ability to house refugees in Kensington and Chelsea rests on the generosity of private sector landlords willing to provide suitable accommodation at lower rents than they would normally charge."

When it launched its appeal for homes last year the council said: "Because of the depth of public sympathy and support for Syrian refugees' plight the council and the Welcome Committee are hopeful that offers will emerge."

However, the "depth of public sympathy" does not appear to have greatly touched private landlords as according to official estimates there are thousands of empty properties in Kensington and Chelsea, many of which have been empty throughout the year of the Council's urgent efforts to re-house the refugees.

In its last property survey in May the council reported that there were no vacant council homes in the borough but there were roughly 2,000 empty private properties, including about 109 which had been unoccupied for two years or more.

However, the Council points out that

not all of the borough's empty properties could just be made available to refugees.

"In May 2016 there were about 2,000 privately owned properties empty for six months in Kensington and Chelsea," said a spokesman.

"Each month the figure will change with overall movement in the market. A rise in the number of vacant homes might represent increased urban renewal and renovation or a change in market forces for high value properties rather than rising problematic vacancy rates.

"Most vacant properties will be empty for entirely legitimate reasons such as: major renovation schemes, planning applications, changes of use, building notices and sales. There can also be more personal reasons such as illness, vulnerability, death and probate issues.

"We carry out internal data-matching exercises to identify which properties are empty without an obvious good reason; and in May 2016 we were aware of 109 such properties from within the original 2,000 that were empty for over two years.

"A postal questionnaire sent to these 109 properties returned more detailed information; 40 questionnaires were not returned and the council's Empty Homes Officer will undertake further investigations into these properties.

"As a central London borough we are acutely aware of the pressure on housing supply and are at pains to accurately identify the number, nature and location of vacant homes."

Meanwhile, the National Audit Office (NAO) has estimated that every Syrian refugee who comes to Britain will cost taxpayers up to £17,340 per year on average for their first five years in the UK.

That puts the cost of re-homing the tragic families in Kensington and Chelsea at £4,335,000.

The NAO said the total sum is uncertain as it depends in large part on the level of medical treatment refugees need and the extent to which they can gain employment and become self-sufficient.

According to the latest UK figures, only 2,800 Syrian refugees have arrived in Britain since former Prime Minister David Cameron promised to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020.

Based on department assumptions, it estimated that the national cost to the end of 2019/20 could be up to £11 billion, and up to £1.73 billion over the lifetime of the project.

Councils are coming under increasing pressure from higher authorities to keep their promise to find homes for the refugees.

"It is essential that these pledges materialise into firm offers of support as more refugees will need to be resettled each quarter during the remainder of the programme than have been so far," said the National Audit Office.

A Council spokesman said: "Once suitable housing is identified we will work with other public services and with the wide range of local individuals and organisations who have offered to assist the refugees. Our aim will be to provide the range of services, support and help that the refugees need to provide them with the best possible start to life in the Royal Borough."

If you have a property which you think could make a suitable home for a refugee, contact Community Engagement@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7598 4633.

Bloom succes for the Royal Borough

KENSINGTON and Chelsea is celebrating its success at this year's London in Bloom awards with a bunch of awards.

London in Bloom encourages communities of all sizes to make positive and lasting changes to their areas. This includes imaginative planting, cleanliness, sustainability and community effort.

The royal borough has been a keen supporter of London in Bloom for many years and this year it gained a Silver Gilt award overall. But there were a host of Gold and Silver awards for the parks of the borough.

Holland Park, Kensington Memorial Park, Little Wormwood Scrubs, Westfield and St Luke's Gardens all secured Gold in the Parks category, with Gunnersbury Cemetery earning Gold in the Best Cemetery award.

Emslie Hornimans Pleasance, Cremorne Gardens and Avondale Park joined the list of winners, gaining Silver Gilt in the Parks category. St Mary Abbots Churchyard was also awarded Silver Gilt. The Natural History Museum also won the Meadow Award.

In addition to this there is the highly competitive "It's Your Neighbourhood" awards, which looks at what community groups do.

This year the borough has received 12 awards to community kitchen gardens, up from eight last year. Amongst these Henry Dickens, St Quintin Avenue and St Charles Health and Wellbeing Centre were judged to be outstanding gardens.

Commenting on the success, Councillor Tim Ahern, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "I am delighted to see so many kitchen gardens and parks recognised for the hard work and dedication residents and staff put in to keep the borough looking so good."

"In the coming year we hope to be in a position for even more parks and kitchen gardens to receive the recognition they deserve."

The Council works closely with many groups throughout the year to ensure the borough is always at its best, among these are the Brighton Kensington and Chelsea Scheme, Kensington Gardeners Club and Chelsea Gardens Guild.

The results of the It's Your Neighbourhood awards for the Royal Borough are:

Level 1- Establishing: Swinbrook. Level 2 - Improving: Thomas Moore (First time entry). Level 3 - Developing: Clydesdale, Southern Row, Wornington Green, Portland Road. Level 4 - Thriving: Tavistock (First time entry), Olympia, Whitstable House. Level 5- Outstanding: Henry Dickens, St Quintin Avenue, St Charles Health and Wellbeing Centre

Transforming cities

HOW cities will be transformed by technology and innovation is the theme of *21st Century Cities*, a series of short talks on Tuesday, October 11 in the Mayor's Parlour at Kensington Town Hall (noon to 3.30pm).

Part of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's annual Celebration of Science event 21st Century Cities looks at the way cities are built and function. Speakers will focus on how improvements in information and technology will bring great benefits to Londoners, whilst leading architects will talk about how to construct buildings that are more sustainable and less carbon intensive.

The talks, which are free, are organised by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Planning Department. Each talk will last for about 15 minutes and there will be time for questions. Speakers and topics include:

Rob Bakker – Founding Partner, PLP Architects. Working together with Cambridge University, PLP has been developing a proposal for London's first all-timber residential high-rise. This 300 metre wooden tower employs a structural system poised to radically alter construction methods in the upcoming years as well as fundamentally transform our relationship with nature in the city.

Rab Bennetts – Founder Partner, Bennetts Associates. For more than 20 years, Bennetts has been reducing the environmental impact of its work. Founder, Rab Bennetts, will speak about the practice's research and how cities will become more sustainable in the future.

Ian Taylor – Managing Partner Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCB). Ian Taylor, will talk about his work and explain how cities will adapt to future challenges.

Peter Farnham – Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation – will discuss how Old Oak Common, a new city quarter to be built close to Kensington and Chelsea is embedding smart technology into the masterplan.

Andries Geerse – 'Smarticipate' project – will discuss how the Council is working with EU partners to improve participation in planning via technology.

Nathan Ashley – Transport for London – will talk about TfL's approach to the Smart Agenda, which seeks to integrate information and technology to improve the way cities function.

Working to reimagine Maxilla

Westway Trust Chief Executive, Angela McConville, talks about what the community have been saying about the Maxilla site and the Trust's next steps there.

A FEW months ago we said here that we'd be carrying out an initial survey about the Maxilla area of the Westway estate. That survey, which we used simply to get an early picture of what people think of the area, has finished and I wanted to share what we heard.

To recap, Maxilla is the part of the estate between St Marks Road and Bramley Road and these days it feels a bit unloved and unwelcoming.

Long forgotten public art in Bay 20 is now an eyesore and parts of the area feel isolated and underused. Some great work by the Westway Trust gardening team has improved the green space in Maxilla Gardens but it still feels like it is far from reaching its full potential.

Similarly, imaginative temporary use of the former Maxilla Nursery and Nursery Garden and Kensington and Chelsea College buildings has brought much needed studio space for artists and creative industries, and a home for the local forest school. On a recent visit to Kindred Studios I was amazed at the extent to which the occupants are not just artists, but small businesses using an affordable space to get themselves established. But these buildings weren't designed for their occupants, who in the longer term could be better served by something purpose built and with a greater certainty of their future.

Before we even started thinking about what or how the Maxilla area might be improved we wanted to talk to local people and community groups who are already familiar with the area and to understand how they feel about how it could evolve.

We focused on the immediate Maxilla area, listening to those who visit the area most now and have a significant interest in what happens there in the future. We spoke to a small but critical group of residents, workers, tenants, neigh-



Working towards improvements in the Maxilla area

bouring residents' associations, and local councillors. The Westway 23 group also circulated their own version of the survey which we incorporated into our analysis.

What we learnt is that people have a real interest in the Maxilla area and are invested in its future. When we asked people what they thought of the site as it is we found that they thought it is unloved, derelict and unsafe. Like us though, they also see terrific potential in the site and shared some of their ideas.

It's important to say that we came to this survey with no preconceptions about how the site might be used and gave no direction or selection of potential responses to participants in that section.

What we heard back, both in our own survey and the responses from Westway 23, was a strong support for the arts and creative industries, potentially in the form of affordable studio and gallery space. People also want to see the green space stay and be enhanced. The idea of

supporting children and young people in the area both educationally and through social spaces was important to many people as was social and recreational space for the wider community in the form of a community café or centre and spaces for voluntary organisations.

These responses inspire exciting visions of a new space in North Kensington where creative and innovative people can thrive in affordable workspaces and studios, alongside community spaces for young and old, local charities and vibrant green spaces. It's a vision that will require significant investment to realise and Westway Trust will need to find partners to help develop and finance it.

The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea are custodian of two of the bays in the Maxilla area and so it will be important for us to work with them in advancing our plans. When we spoke to people about this possibility many agreed on the benefits of partnership but they were understandably sceptical about how it might work in practice. Many respondents were strongly opposed to us working with any organisation that did not show clear support for the local community.

We now have a clear picture of what local people feel about Maxilla, and we're working on creating a vision for the area that can act as a discussion point with the local community. We're also taking the ideas presented by the community to RBKC to establish if they might be able to work with us to achieve them. Nothing will be decided without extensive further community input and revision. These are very early days for this project and I'm excited about the incredible things that could be happening at Maxilla in the future and as always please contact us with your thoughts about what you want to see there.

NEWS FROM NICK

Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown welcomes a fall in road traffic collisions and casualties



Success in our efforts to improve road safety

Politicians, even local ones like me, tend to spend a lot of time on bold initiatives and big capital projects. But, very often there is as much progress to be had from the everyday bread-and-butter business of government as there is from high-profile grand projects.

Our recent road traffic accident figures are a case in point. Recently released by Transport for London (TfL), they show that Kensington and Chelsea had fewer road traffic accidents and injuries in 2015 than in any year since records began in 1990.

In fact, of TfL's 32 accident categories, we achieved our lowest ever figure in 21 of them. The number of collisions was down. The number of injuries, serious and slight, were down. And even cyclist casualties were down, by 19 per cent, from 189 in 2014 to 153 in 2015, as were pedestrian casualties which decreased by 24, or 14.2 per cent.

It's all rather remarkable really, especially when you think that since 1990 cars have got bigger and faster, London's population has

got larger and there are many, many more cyclists.

It's not all down to the Council of course. The accident figures improved elsewhere in London too, though typically not by as much. A lot of factors will have contributed to this deeply welcome news, perhaps even "the better angels of our nature". But I want to salute our Highways officers who certainly deserve some of the credit.

There has been a quite relentless effort by them, and TfL too, to identify accident blackspots and make improvements. They have also devoted a huge effort to ensuring that the road safety message is heard everywhere and especially in our schools. Down the years the Council has invested millions in these endeavours. These shrinking accident figures make that investment all worthwhile.

But we mustn't get complacent. There may be future setbacks, but we are determined to remain focussed on trying to get these accidents figures down even further.

Dealing with a Possession Order - is there a solution?

The number of possession orders in the private sector continues to increase. In London, government figures confirm 6,700 more possession orders were granted compared to a decade ago.

It really is not "game over" if possession proceedings have been issued. Time and again we see tenants who fail to actively seek assistance with their possession matters - why is that?

- People believe that legal aid does not exist for possession proceedings. Wrong! Possession is one of the areas that is still funded by legal aid.
- The misapprehension that there will be no defence to the possession proceedings – again, wrong! Not only are there often arguable defences, the defending possession proceedings has become a more straightforward process with the introduction of the Deregulation Act 2015.

We may be able to assist with an array of defences ranging from the failure to protect the deposit, preventing retaliatory evictions where the property is in disrepair and failure to provide the correct notice.

Litigating in person without the benefit of legal representation can be a daunting step especially when faced with the prospect of losing one's home which naturally carries emotional involvement. It is therefore crucial to get independent legal advice when facing a possession claim. It is important to remember, even if a possession order has been made, all is not lost.

Hodge Jones and Allen is a leading North London law firm with an experienced social housing team. If you would like to discuss your situation, contact Daniel directly on 020 7874 8434 or email dfitzpatrick@hja.net. Hodge Jones & Allen, 180 North Gower Street, London, NW1 2NB. www.hja.net



Daniel Fitzpatrick
Partner



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solicitors



To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, please email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

Call for free clean up of graffiti

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TOWN Hall bosses should offer a free graffiti clean-up service to local businesses in a bid to protect shop fronts from vandals, a local councillor has said.

Councillor Harry Phibbs said threatening, racist and homophobic graffiti was "widespread" in Hammersmith and Fulham.

He also called for action to make sure people's homes were cleaned in the event of vandalism.

Local concerns about graffiti were sparked in June when the Polish Social and Cultural Association building in King Street was targeted.

Offensive messages were sprayed onto the front of the building in the wake of the



The Polish Social and Cultural Association building in King Street was targeted by graffiti vandals in June

vote to leave the European Union.

Cllr Phibbs, the Conservative group's housing spokesman, suggested that the cost of a clean-up service could be offset by the administrative savings from processing graffiti complaints.

"The idea of serving a court order for someone who has already had the distress of obscene or racist graffiti painted on their home to get it removed would effectively mean punishing the victim twice," he said.

"With the council's chem-

icals and jet sprays it would be pretty easy to remove it for them – but it might be quite expensive or physically challenging for an elderly or vulnerable person to manage it themselves."

Cllr Phibbs expressed concern about the amount of "threatening" and "obscene" graffiti in the borough.

He also criticised the Labour council's spending on a Unity Day march and rally in July.

He added: "The idea of the rally was to send out a message that the overwhelming majority of people in the borough condemn bigotry. That was a positive theme."

"But wouldn't a more cost-effective way of delivering the same message be for the council to provide a free, comprehensive and rapid service to remove messages

of hate sprayed on any building in the borough?"

Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Hammersmith and Fulham council's cabinet member for environment, transport and residents' services, said: "We want Hammersmith and Fulham to be one of the cleanest, greenest areas in the country and so act fast to remove unsightly or offensive graffiti."

"Our Graffiti Action Team proactively removes on average 200 incidents of graffiti per month, from shop fronts and other visible locations, as well as responding to complaints. In the past year, 20 residents or businesses have removed graffiti from their properties after receiving notification letters from us. Removal notices would only be served if these letters had not been acted upon."

New life for former factory

A FORMER Ford Model-T factory in Hammersmith has been brought "back to life".

More than 800 new workers have moved into the Grade II-listed building at 184 Shepherd's Bush Road after an international data and technology company arrived in the borough.

Dunnhumby is up and running at its new Brook Green office following a major revamp of the building.

An extra three floors and a distinctive glass domed roof have been added to the former factory site, which opened as a Ford plant a century ago.

It took three years to complete the ambitious redevelopment of the industrial unit, which was previously home to Access Self Storage.

Dunnhumby, which specialises in data and technology analysis for businesses, made the move from its headquarters in Ealing after signing a 15-year lease in August.

Chief executive Simon Hay said: "We are delighted to have moved our global headquarters to Hammersmith and Fulham."

"It is a vibrant community and we are pleased to be a part of it. It is great to be connected to the wider London market but also the unique culture of Brook Green and Hammersmith."

"We are especially delighted to take a 100-year-building that has been a little neglected in recent years and bring it back to life. It started life as a Model-T Ford factory and we now build data and technology that is used around the world."

Community raise money for popular musician's funeral

MORE than £2,000 has been raised to help pay for the funeral of beloved Fulham musician Billy Franks after friends of the singer made a heartfelt appeal for support.

Mr Franks, who was best remembered as the frontman with the 1980s pop band Faith Brothers, died at his home on September 20 at the age of 60.

Tributes were paid to an "amazing" musician and song-

writer – and friends quickly set up a fundraising page to collect donations towards the funeral.

Ellie Rashbrook launched the appeal last week and has already raised £2,500 towards a £3,000 target.

She said Mr Franks had staged charity gigs on her behalf when her sister was raising money for an urgent operation for her son.

"Billy and his band and friends and family helped us reach our target by doing many fundraising things for us, playing gigs for our events, having whip rounds and collections at every gig, party and function he played at, and much more. We will be forever grateful for this," she said. "This was just one example of the amazing charitable work he has always done with so

much passion and love."

She added: "He wasn't only an amazing musician and songwriter that we all knew and loved, he was our friend. He was an uncle, a father, a grandfather and a brother. We all miss him so much."

As the singer with Faith Brothers, Franks penned hit songs including *Stranger On Home Ground*, *Whistling In The Dark* and *The Country Of*

The Blind.

A funeral has been arranged for October 12 and a procession is due to leave Fulham Court at 11.50am before a service at Putney Vale starting at 12.20pm.

Mr Franks' family have invited members of the community to join them at the Fulham Bar and Grill in Fulham Broadway after the funeral.



What's a typical day at St Vincent's House?
Catching up over afternoon tea

At St Vincent's House care home we support residents to get the most out of every day. We also believe in sharing our expertise.

Join our next free event:
Planning care for the future

Wednesday 12th October 2016
2pm - 4pm

St Vincent's House is pleased to welcome independent specialists Kieron Robertson, Chartered Financial Planner from Towry, and Nina Klair, Solicitor, from Seth Lovis & Co will help you understand options for funding long term care and provide you with useful and practical information.

For more information or to book your free place please RSVP on **0333 4343 071** or email **lorelei.shepherd@careuk.com**

St Vincent's House
49 Queen Caroline Street,
Hammersmith, London W6 9QH
careuk.com/st-vincents-house



From toilets to tearooms - and one of the best views in London

THE heritage enthusiast who will lead a new future for London's Royal Parks has unveiled a £500,000 project at one of the capital's most impressive locations.

Chairman of the new Royal Parks charity, Loyd Grossman CBE, set out part of his vision for helping to generate more funding for the parks as he formally opened the new Italian Gardens Cafe in Kensington Gardens.

With stunning views across the 150-year-old Italian Gardens – a gift from Prince Albert to his wife Queen Victoria – the site was once a disused toilet block but has now been transformed into The Royal Parks' latest catering facility, with its very own living roof to support biodiversity and wildlife in the gardens.

At a reception Mr Grossman, who became the new chairman of The Royal Parks in July, spoke about his ambitions for The Royal Parks as it joins forces with its charity the Royal Parks Foundation to become a new, single charity.

He highlighted the importance of projects such as the cafe development, which allow The Royal Parks to maximise income while also improving the experience for the 77 million visitors who enjoy the parks every year.

Mr Grossman said: "People say the Royal Parks are the green lungs of London, but they are more than that; they are the heart, the brain and the soul of London – they are key parts of what makes this city the greatest in the world. I am honoured to have been asked to become the chairman of The Royal Parks as it becomes a new charity, and play my part in helping to protect them.

"My vision is to continue maintaining them as the best parks in the world for this and for future generations. We won't see overt commercialisation but we do need to grow income and support. The Italian Gardens Cafe is a perfect example of what The Royal Parks will be doing as a new charity, using our current assets to transform them into fantastic new fa-



'One of the finest cafe views in London' - The Italian Gardens Cafe at the opening



The new chairman of the Royal Parks charity, Loyd Grossman admires the refurbished building that has become the Italian Gardens Cafe in Kensington Gardens

cilities which not only offer our visitors an even greater experience but help generate the much needed income to keep these parks at the standard you see today."

The new cafe and its landscaping have been designed to not only reflect the Italian style of the gardens, but also to complement the neighbouring Grade 2 Listed Queen Anne's Alcove, which is currently being restored.

The conservation works include repairs to the stonework and brickwork, and to the timber panelling and seating. The roof covering has also been replaced in lead, after it was damaged during a storm in March.

The iconic shelter alcove was built in 1705 and originally sat in the gardens of Kensington Palace, until 1867 when London builder Mr Cowley funded its relocation to its present site, as he thought it 'unsightly' and 'a resort for undesirable persons'.

Kensington Gardens Manager, Andy Williams, said: "The new cafe and restoration of Queen Anne's Alcove has made a huge improvement to this part of Kensington Gardens – in my opinion, it boasts one of the finest cafe views in London, looking across the fountains towards the Long Water.

"Both projects ideally complement each other with the new cafe enhancing the alcove within the Italian Gardens landscape, as well as offering visitors to Kensington Gardens a unique place to sit, eat and lap up some of the tranquillity the gardens have to offer."

For more details about the Italian Gardens Cafe visit The Royal Parks' website.

■ QUEEN Anne's Alcove sits beside the new Italian Gardens Cafe. It was constructed in 1705 by Sir Christopher Wren, architect of St Paul's Cathedral. It is neo-classical in style.

The alcove was originally designed as part of Queen Anne's formal gardens, a focal point at the end of a wide tree lined walk called Dial Walk, leading directly from Kensington Palace. A carved stone coat of arms of Queen Anne in the centre of the tall stone arch of the alcove indicates its original location and royal connection.

The alcove remained in its original position within the southern private gardens of Kensington Palace until 1867 when it was moved to its present location at the northern end of the Serpentine. Mr Cowley, a London builder, funded its movement at his own expense as he thought it 'unsightly' and 'a resort for undesirable persons'.

Grade II Listed, Queen Anne's Alcove is of exceptional historic interest as an important survivor from the early 19th century formal gardens of Queen Anne, and for charting the development of Kensington Gardens from a palace garden into a public park. It offers cover from the elements, and a comfortable seated spot from which to enjoy the view of the famous Italian Gardens.

■ CREATED in the 1860s during the reign of Queen Victoria, the Italian Gardens is a 150-year-old ornamental water garden. It was believed to have been created as a gift to Queen Victoria from her husband Prince Albert.

Situated the head of The Long Water – the river which flows through Kensington Gardens into Hyde Park where it becomes The Serpentine – it is Grade II listed by English Heritage as a site of particular importance.

The formal layout of the Italian Gardens can be traced to Osborne House on The Isle of Wight. Prince Albert was a keen gardener and took charge of the gardens at Osborne House, where the royal family spent its holidays. One of the big changes he made was the introduction of an Italian Garden with large raised terraces, fountains, urns and new geometric flower beds. When the Italian Gardens in Kensington Gardens were built in 1860, the designer James Pennethorne included many of the features of the Osborne garden.

At the north of the gardens is the Pump House where you can see Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's initials on one of the walls. The building once contained a steam engine that would operate the fountains and the pillar on the roof is a cleverly disguised chimney. A stoker would be employed all Saturday night to keep the engine running and pump water into the Round Pond, so on Sundays there was enough head of water to run the fountains without the engine working.



Queen Anne's alcove which is currently being restored

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The end of the nightclub scene in London?

AFTER years at the centre of the social scene in London - from disco in the 70s to dance and DJs in the decades that followed - the nightclub is now officially dying out.

Hot on the heels of the closure of the capital's superclub Fabric, new figures show that the number of people clubbing has plummeted by a quarter in the last five years.

Late-night pubs offering cheaper drinks and no entry charge are fuelling the death knell of the previously after-hours club scene, the research suggests.

It appears increasingly clear that the UK's renowned clubbing sector has lost its rhythm as admissions fell drastically from 149 million in 2010 to just 115 million last year, with revenue falling by more than a fifth in the same period.

According to new figures from market re-

search company Mintel, the steady decline is set to continue with attendances forecast to slip below 100 million by 2020.

Many Brits are avoiding the dancefloor entirely, as over a quarter claimed to have never even visited a nightclub.

The top three issues steering potential club-



The closure of Fabric has signalled a deeper malaise in the nightclub scene in London

bers away were pricey door entry, expensive drinks and crowding, while almost half of consumers said they found it difficult to find a place that plays the music they like.

More than 40 per cent of clubbers prefer to go to bars with dancing areas, with the same number admitting to visiting at least one bar or pub before hitting the nightclub.

Londoners were the most likely to put on their dancing shoes, with 16 per cent claiming to visit a club at least once a fortnight, but the recent closure of popular venue Fabric could hit the capital hard.

Rebecca McGrath, a research analyst at Mintel, said: "Fabric's recent closure, alongside other high profile closures in recent months, highlights the increased regulatory pressure faced by nightclubs, as well as the competition they face from late night bars and

pubs.

"Total UK nightclub revenue is also in decline as nightclubs are unable to compensate for declines in admissions through an increase in average spend per admission.

"High entry fees and drink prices are having a negative impact on people's clubbing experiences, with many opting to purchase alcoholic drinks in other locations, including at home, before they get to a club."

Ms McGrath said nightclubs should focus on offering promotional deals via smartphones, while attempting to tackle behaviour inside the clubs themselves.

She added: "More event nights, live music and immersive experiences can also help reinvigorate excitement around visiting a nightclub as they will help an evening feel more unique."



Great-Grandfather Richard Wooding, a great-grandfather and retired carpenter is calling for those who are unable to leave their homes to take advantage of the Specsavers Healthcall home-visiting service after a recent eye test saved his vision and detected a potentially life-threatening condition.

The retired carpenter, who was hospitalised for nearly two months after he suffered a stroke earlier this year, complained of loss of vision in his left eye after he was discharged from hospital. Convinced something was wrong he decided to book a home appointment with Specsavers Healthcall.

Keen to provide the very best professional care and advice, Specsavers Healthcall ensured an optometrist was quickly on hand to check for any issues with Richards' sight. Following a thorough eye examination, Richard's optometrist could detect no reason for his vision loss but made an immediate hospital referral for further checks.

Within 24 hours and further tests at the hospital, Richard was diagnosed with having another stroke, which was the reason he was unable to see out of his left eye. A blood clot was removed allowing him to see again, saving his sight and sparing further damage to the rest of his body.

As an avid reader, Richard is delighted with how a simple at-home eye test has played a massive difference to his life. He says: 'I now realise regular eye tests are so important not only for detecting a change in vision, but also for any other underlying health conditions. I'd urge anyone who is unable to visit a Specsavers store unaccompanied, to get in touch with the Specsavers Healthcall team.'

Dr Nigel Best, Specsavers clinical spokesperson says: 'Richard's case is just one example of the importance of regular eye tests for those unable to come to a store. From an all-round inclusive eyecare service, the Specsavers Healthcall service provides NHS funded eye examinations, dispensing of glasses and aftercare.'

Specsavers Healthcall is one of the UK's largest home-visiting opticians. It is continuing to improve the eyecare for thousands of housebound residents with its comprehensive service and quality products.

To find out more or book a home eye test call 0800 652 4948 or visit www.specsavers.co.uk/home-eye-tests

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To find out if you're eligible for a free home visit call 0800 652 8272 or go to specsavers.co.uk/home-eye-tests



How old is your heart?

Older than you think if you are anything like LWN reporter Geoff Baker

LONDONERS are being urged by doctors to try out a new Heart Age Tool to help save their lives after researchers at University College London discovered that four in five people aged over 30 have heart older than their actual age.

But taking the test can give you a shock – when I learnt my results I almost had a heart attack, *writes Geoff Baker.*

To my horror, and shame at my 40-a-day cigarette habit, I discovered that although I'm only 60, my heart age is 81!

"A staggering 79.2 per cent of over-30s have a heart age older than their chronological age, making them more likely to have a potentially fatal heart attack or stroke," said a spokesman for the UCL study of 575,000 people which was funded by the British Heart Foundation.

"The BHF, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Choices are encouraging people to use the innovative online tool to find out how old their heart is and know their cardiovascular risk.

"The older a person's heart age, the higher their risk of a cardiovascular event, such as a stroke or heart attack. A heart age greater than 70 increases the risk significantly."

The research, led by Dr Riyaz Patel of UCL's Institute of Cardiovascular Science with Professor John Deanfield of UCL's Congenital Heart Disease, discovered that nearly 9 in 10 (87 per cent) of men under 40 had a heart older than they were, compared to 41 per cent of women of the same age. Of these, over a quarter 28 per cent had a heart age greater than their chronological age by at least five years.

The study, the largest of its kind, also found a significant proportion of the public were unaware of their own cardiovascular risk factors. 4 in 5 people did not know what their cholesterol levels were, and almost half did not know or input their blood pressure.

"Currently, cardiovascular disease (CVD) causes more than a quarter of all deaths in the UK, around 155,000 people each year, and coronary heart disease is the UK's single biggest killer," said the spokesman.

"Despite this, most cases in people under 75 are preventable. Factors like high blood pressure and high cholesterol, as well as smoking, diet and a lack of exercise, can increase someone's risk of developing CVD.

"One disease from the cardiovascular family, like diabetes, makes another, like chronic kidney disease, more likely. To stop this vicious cycle, the Heart Age Tool can motivate people to think about their risk factors before problems develop, and aims to empower individuals to proactively manage these risk factors and minimise risk."

Jamie Waterall, National lead for cardiovascular disease prevention, PHE, said: "Even though you may not have symptoms, having a heart age higher than your own age indicates an increased risk of serious illness. The Heart Age Tool gives an immediate indication of a person's potential risk and what they can start doing to reduce it."

For people over 40, the NHS Health Check presents an invaluable opportunity to discuss your heart health with a professional.

Almost a million people (960,000) have used the tool since its launch in February 2015. But now the new version of the tool will recommend interventions and advice on how to lower cardiovascular risk. It can show how to reverse the ageing of the heart by, for example, stopping smoking.

"Telling people their heart is older than it should be is shown to be a more effective way to get them to change behaviour and improve cardiovascular health," said Mr Waterall.

"A Spanish study has demonstrated that communication of a 'heart age' resulted in better smoking



cessation rates, blood pressure and weight reductions over 12 months in both men and women compared to controls and those receiving standard 10-year risk estimates.

Dr Mike Knapton, Associate Medical Director at BHF, said: "Knowing your heart age is vital to taking control of your health.

Armed with this knowledge, you can start to make changes to help protect yourself against cruel and life changing events such as heart attack and stroke. The younger you start making small but significant changes, the greater the return on your investment in your health."

John Deanfield, BHF Professor of Cardiology and

Senior Adviser to PHE on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention who led the development of the Heart Age Tool, said: "There has already been enormous public interest in the Heart Age Tool which provides people with a personal guide to the impact of important cardiovascular risk factors on their own health and future risk.

"Our research shows that helping people to clearly understand their risk of heart disease, and the lifestyle and medication options for lowering it, can empower them to make significant improvements to their heart health with the potential to last a lifetime.

People can find out how old their heart is and how to manage their risk by visiting www.bhf.org.uk/heartage



Mark Rylance Actor to become City Freeman

MARK Rylance will be honoured as a Freeman of the City of London following a nomination by the British Red Cross.

The Oscar-winning actor will be given the honour in front of his friends and family at a ceremony at London's Guildhall on Thursday 27 October 2016. The presentation will be followed by a formal dinner and tribute to the actor from friends including renowned counter-tenor Iestyn Davies, his co-star in the recent West End hit 'Farinelli and the King'.

Mark won an Academy Award and BAFTA this year for his role in 'Bridge of Spies' and is currently starring in Steven Spielberg's film version of 'The BFG'.

Mark said: "I am honoured to receive this oldest of surviving traditions, The Freedom of the City of London, and thank the British Red Cross for their recognition of my continuing work for peace and humanity."

The Freedom of the City of London is a traditional ceremony believed to have been first presented in 1237. It historically provided trading rights and alleged privileges including the right to go about the city with a drawn sword. There are no such privileges associated with the award today but it is still the highest honour the City of London can bestow.

Mark Rylance was nominated by the British Red Cross International Fundraising Committee in recognition of his distinguished career and his humanitarianism.

Hard times

ALMOST half of all working families in London are having to cut back on essential food and clothing in an effort to pay their rent or mortgage, a new study suggests.

The YouGov research revealed that families in the capital were facing tough choices in order to make ends meet.

According to the survey, as many as 49 per cent of London families said they were shaving pennies off their food budget in a bid to make the rent.

Housing charity Shelter said the figures were an "acute reminder" of the challenges facing working families in London.

Chief executive Campbell Robb said: "With over half a million working families in the capital struggling and a period of economic uncertainty ahead, now is the time for the Government to both protect and improve our welfare safety net so that it can be there to support families who fall on hard times."

City design could improve health

HEART disease and diabetes could be prevented by changing the design of cities like London to encourage cycling and walking, new research suggests.

The simple measure could achieve significant reductions in illnesses like cancer, as well as boosting fitness and reducing pollution.

Case studies carried out in London and several other major global cities, found massive health gains could be achieved if planners incentivised a shift from cars and buses to cycling and walking.

A computer model designed for London identified a reduction of 13 per cent in the burden of heart disease and seven per cent in type 2 diabetes.

Professor Billie Giles-Corti, from the University of Melbourne, said: "With the world's population estimated to reach 10 billion people by 2050, and three quarters of this population living in cities, city planning must be part of a comprehensive solution to tackling adverse health outcomes.

"City planning was key to cutting infectious disease outbreaks in the 19th century through improved sanitation, housing and separating residential and industrial areas.

"Today, there is a real opportunity for city planning to reduce non-communicable diseases and road trauma, and to promote health and wellbeing more broadly."

The study on urban design, transport and health, published in The Lancet, said more than half of the world's population now live in cities.

By 2050, large cities in the USA, China and India are predicted to see their populations increase by up to 96 per cent.



The paper calls on city planners to ensure shops and services are kept within walking distance and that a mix of employment and housing are approved across London.

Parking spaces should also be reduced and the cost increased, along with safer pavements and cycle lanes, more open spaces and public transport stops.

The researchers' "compact cities' model" was applied to the six cities in the study and health gains were predicted in all of them, with the greatest effect on reducing rates of cardiovascular disease.

In addition, all cities saw increases in physical activity and reductions in air pollution from transport emissions.

Professor Mark Stevenson, also from the University of Melbourne, said: "The effect of interventions that encourage cycling and walking was particularly evident in highly motorised cities such as Melbourne, London and Boston, and underscores the importance of transport policies, pricing and regulation that encourage active transport via cycling, walking and public transport while discouraging private car use.

"These changes also need to be matched by improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to protect cyclists and pedestrians. Our study shows that these changes at city level could lead to real health gains."



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Met chief worried about the number of guns in the capital

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON police are seizing firearms at the rate of two a day and the Met's Chief says he is worried about the record number of guns in the capital.

Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe told a hearing at City Hall that the increase in gun crime in the city was due to a big rise in the number of weapons coming into the country.

In the last year, criminals have fired guns more than 300 times – an increase of almost 100 times on the year before.

The Met seized its highest ever number of weapons in 2015, more than 700, including semi-automatic guns, and fears are high that the increased supply will help terrorists planning attacks.

"We've seized more firearms than ever before. In the previous year we've seized 714 guns, that's around two per day," Sir Bernard told the GLA's Police and Crime Committee.

"In a city this size that's a worrying number. This is an increase on previous years. Some of them are semi-automatic weapons too.

"If you look around the big cities of the country they are seeing a similar profile. Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool – they are seeing big rises as well."

Police say most of the weapons are being smuggled in from East European countries including Albania and Lithuania, but recent significant seizures have been made of guns coming in from France.

Sir Bernard added: "We are targeting with the National Crime Agency the supply routes. It's either from abroad, it's stealing legally owned weapons in this country, sometimes you've got to look at military supplies and also you've got to look at licensed dealers."

Police figures have revealed that there were 302 "lethal barrelled weapon discharges" in London in the past 12 months, 91 more than the previous year. There were 46 discharges in both July and August this year.

In May, Sir Bernard warned that the rise in the number of available guns meant terrorists had a greater chance of getting their hands on lethal weapons.

In the same month Scotland Yard launched a crackdown on gun crime hotspots called Operation Viper, following a "significant" increase in the number of shootings in the capital.

Led by the Trident and Gang Crime Command, Viper consists of a team of 50 officers and include detectives from the Serious and Organised Crime Command (SCO7), uniformed officers from borough, and the Task Force, including the Territorial Support Group and the Dogs Unit.

The Force Firearms Unit (SCO19) has dedicated a team from the Armed Response Unit to support the work. Police activity for the operation includes high-visibility armed patrols, pro-active ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) operations, weapon sweeps, and intelligence-led stop and search.

"Officers are targeting known firearms offenders, making arrests and executing search warrants. Viper teams will work alongside borough colleagues to assist in educating young people about the dangers of carrying firearms," said a Met spokesman.

"However, compared with other capital cities around the world, London has low levels of gun crime, and guns in the UK are harder for criminals to obtain than in many other countries.

Commander Duncan Ball, in charge of Gangs and Organised Crime, said that al-

though fatalities are low, one death was one too many and it was vital that police respond quickly to trends in criminal behaviour.

He said: "We are seeing that at least half of these shootings are related to drugs and we will work closely with colleagues across the Met on that.

"We have ARVs dedicated to this operation and we will keep reviewing how we respond across the Capital. Viper gives us renewed energy in our fight to take guns off the street."

At the launch of Operation Viper Sir Bernard said: "Firearm use is thankfully still rare in London and rarely affects those not involved in crime – but I am very concerned about the recent increase and we are determined to stop it.

"Our officers will use all their powers to take on the gunmen and those that supply them. If you know of someone who has access to a gun or supplies others with a gun – please tell us either where the guns are or who has them."

The Met is offering up to £2,000 as a reward for information that leads to the recovery of firearms, together with the arrest and prosecution of those in criminal possession of them.



Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe - worried about the number of guns in London

Next Commissioner could be a woman

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is to press to have a big say in choosing the next Commissioner of the Met, following the surprise early retirement of Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe.

And for the first time the next "Chief" could be a woman.

Sir Bernard, 58, will remain in post until February to allow for his successor to be appointed. The Mayor wants to be involved in choosing his successor, an appointment traditionally made by the Home Secretary.

During the mayoral election campaign, Mr Khan said: "It's for the Mayor of London to have a big say in who the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police is" and following Sir Bernard's announcement he said he will be part of the selection panel.

"I will work closely with the Home Secretary to ensure we find the best possible candidate to appoint as the new Commissioner, so that we can continue to keep Londoners safe," said the Mayor.

The Met has never had a woman chief and front-runners for the £275,000 a year post are said to include Sara Thornton, head of the National Police Chiefs Council and a former Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, and Lynne Owens, Director General of the National Crime Agency.

Another favourite is the capital's counter terrorism chief, Assistant Commissioner for specialist operations Mark Rowley.

Sir Bernard was appointed Commissioner on 12 September, 2011. His first significant challenge was to lead the response to the London riots, convicting the criminals responsible, and making sure his officers were prop-

erly prepared so they could be mobilised at speed to avoid losing control of the streets.

Under Sir Bernard, the Met ran a successful security operation to ensure the 2012 London Olympics passed off safely. He made a public commitment to reduce crime, which has fallen by around 18 per cent during his time as Commissioner.

"The Commissioner has focused the Metropolitan Police on making London the safest global city, reducing knife and gun crime through a determined war on gangs," said a Met spokesman.

"Throughout his period as Commissioner, London has faced an evolving threat from international terrorism. Conflicts in Syria and Iraq have created fears of a new generation of people being radicalised, intent on bringing violence to Western cities.

"The murder of soldier Lee Rigby in 2013 made that threat a reality. His attackers were stopped by firearms officers from the Met and later convicted and sentenced to life in prison."

Following the attacks in Paris last year, the Commissioner ordered a significant increase in the number of firearms officers in London and stepped up the number of armed patrols in the Capital.

"Public confidence in the Met has risen during his time as Commissioner," said the spokesman.

"His promise of Total Victim Care, a key pillar of his Total Policing philosophy, has seen a marked increase in satisfaction with the Met's service."

Like police forces across England and Wales, the Commissioner's period in office has been marked by acute financial challenges. The MPS has already saved more than £600 million and sold its historic headquarters at New Scotland Yard for £370 million. It will move its HQ and the famous spinning sign to a refurbished police building in a few months.

"Sir Bernard has kept 32,000 police officers in London – the only force to maintain frontline officer numbers – and has constantly pushed the Met to increase the number of officers from minorities, which now stands at the highest level ever. He oversaw a dramatic reduction in the number of stop and searches carried out

and made clear that the Met would get rid of racist officers," said the spokesman.

Sir Bernard said: "I am so proud of the remarkable men and women who serve Londoners as police officers and staff and make this such a safe place for people to live, work or visit.

"I want to thank all of them for what they do, and the risks they take each day to protect the public.

"I want to thank all the partners we work with in government, in City Hall and across London. And I want to thank the public for the support they show the Met, and have shown me personally, as we do our difficult jobs.

"I came into this job determined to fight crime and make the MPS the best, most professional police service. I wish my successor well as they take on this amazing responsibility.

"It has been a great privilege to be the Met's Commissioner. I have loved my time in the role and I have loved being a police officer. It's the most rewarding of jobs to protect good people and lock up the bad guys."

Mayor Khan said: "I would like to thank Bernard for his years of service and dedication to keeping Londoners safe – I have enjoyed working closely together with him over the past five months.

"Bernard oversaw the excellent policing of the 2012 Olympic Games and has taken big steps towards making our police service more representative of London."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan wants more say in choosing the next Metropolitan Police Commissioner



Pupils shake it on world milk day

PUPILS at Colville Primary School joined schools across the UK to form into a mass dance troop in celebration of World School Milk Day today.

As part of an initiative promoted by The Dairy Council, pupils and teachers at Colville Primary School in Notting Hill got moving and shaking to celebrate the white stuff and learn about the key role that milk plays in keeping children healthy.

Today teachers at Colville Primary School taught their pupils a dance routine, using milk shakers, created by The Dairy Council as part of a nationwide competition to get school children active and learning about milk.

Primary-aged children need lots of nutrients and energy from their food for growth and development - their requirements are proportionally higher in relation to their body size than adults.

Milk and dairy foods provide calcium and protein for growing bodies and help to protect

teeth against dental cavities. A small carton of semi-skimmed milk can provide 42-52 per cent of 4-10 year olds recommended daily intake for calcium and 24-35 per cent of their recommended protein intake.

Another important but less known nutrient, iodine, is also found in significant amounts in milk. It is an important nutrient for growth and brain development in children and a glass of milk provides about 52-57 per cent of their recommended intake.

Amal El-Barnaoui, Year 3 Class Teacher and member of the Senior Leadership Team, said: "We decided to get involved in World School Milk Day in order to raise the awareness of how important it is for pupils to drink milk as part of a healthy lifestyle.

"We want pupils to understand the health and nutrition benefits in drinking milk and actively encourage them take ownership in leading healthy lives."

Erica Hocking, Senior Nutri-

tion Scientist at The Dairy Council, said: "At primary school age, it is essential that children have a balanced diet and get plenty of physical activity to help them maintain a healthy weight as they get older. World School Milk Day is therefore a great way to highlight the importance of drinking milk and encourage children to make healthy choices.

"Research shows that milk consumption may have a beneficial effect on growth and body weight in children and therefore schools have a key role to play in encouraging children to replace sugary drinks with milk or water.

"We would like to thank Colville Primary School for supporting our initiative - milk is an easy, tasty and affordable way to help children to get their recommended daily allowance of calcium, protein and iodine and we hope pupils have enjoyed learning about milk today."



Milk helps to keep you fit - especially if you want to do the splits like this Colville pupil



Shaking the white stuff - pupils from Colville Primary School

Landlord fined £2,000 for failing to comply with council fire safety notice

A LADBROKE Grove landlord who failed to comply with an Improvement Notice to maintain his property for his tenants was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £2,110 in costs after pleading guilty to a charge under the Housing Act 2004 at Hammersmith Magistrates' Court.

The court heard that landlord Caryl Johannes Kooy had failed to comply with an Improvement Notice, served under Section 11 of the Housing Act on 10 July

2015, requiring that he carry out works to the property to ensure the safety of his tenants and keep the property in good repair.

Officers from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea had inspected the property on May 13th 2015 after receiving a report from the London Fire Brigade that there had been a fire.

The inspection revealed the electrics were in a poor condition. In July 2015 the council

served an improvement notice requiring works to be completed no later than January 12th 2016.

On October 13th 2015 the council varied the notice to take into account the reduction of tenants living at the property.

However, when officers inspected the property on January 27th 2016 no works had started and Mr Kooy was given until the end of February to start the works, which he failed to do.

In April 2016 Mr Kooy contacted the Council confirming that the works had not started and asking for more time.

In mitigation the court heard that Mr Kooy did not have the necessary funds to carry out the works in the time frame required, however it was noted that he has recently rewired the property.

He also claimed he was not a commercial landlord as he lived at the property.

Mr Kooy was also ordered to pay a £120 victim surcharge.

Crossrail correction

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Council have asked us to correct our report of last week in which it was stated that the "nine-figure" cost of building a Portobello Crossrail station could be up to £900 million.

The council says the figure would be "about £100 million", if the station is built.

The council has also asked us to emphasise that the cost would be met from planning gain, if a development of about 4,500 homes in the area was to go ahead, and not from existing Council reserves.

We apologise for this error.

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Westminster & City NEWS

pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Strutton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avenmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle

pick up points

Fulham Library	558 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
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Hammersmith CHRONICLE

pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE

pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

Sohail fights his way to a new life in London

SOHAIL Ahmad Moghalzai was just 11-years-old when he came all alone to the UK as a refugee from Afghanistan – but through hard work and determination he's now a professional boxer in Notting Hill and on his way to becoming a British champion.

Sohail, pictured, now 28, has won eight of his nine professional bouts and in December he will be fighting for the national title as light welter-weight champ of the UK.

Sohail, whose next fight will be at Bethnal Green's York Hall on October 29th, says he is also fighting to help inspire youngsters to get off the streets and better their lives.

"I first came to England from Afghanistan in 2000 and the journey was terrifying because I was only 11 and unaccompanied. My parents, who are still in Afghanistan, paid for me to come here so that I would be safe," he said.

"I've come from an underprivileged background, so living in this country alone is a blessing for me.

"But I want to work harder to make sure that I can be lucky enough to be a good example to the younger generation and help kids get off the streets and do good things with their life. "Talent can only take you so



far, but then it stops and hard work kicks in. So the harder you work the more things you are going to achieve, without a doubt."

Hard work has been Sohail's mission from the start of his new life in Britain.

"As a kid when I came here I had nothing but a dream to change my life and make it big, make some money and a name for myself," he said.

"So I started training at the age of twelve. The first sport I competed in was the Korean martial art called taekwondo. I achieved a black belt and was a London champion in 2005 and the third best fighter in the UK in 2006.

"Even though I got to an international level in taekwondo by winning bronze in the open European championship 2005, I still had love for

boxing.

"So I started boxing in 2008. I fought for the All Stars club and after two years there I then started fighting for Repton, which has a reputation for being one of the toughest and oldest clubs in Europe. I learned a great deal by moving to Repton and winning seven out of eight fights for them, including London North East division championships.

"Then people saw a potential in me and I got signed. I've won eight of my nine professional fights and now I'm looking for a TV contract. Boxing is a good sport for kids to learn, it teaches you discipline and dedication and if you work hard you can earn a lot of money. Hopefully one day I'll earn enough to be able to bring my parents here to visit me."

Danger lorries to be banned from capital's streets

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TENS of thousands of dangerous lorries are to be banned from London to make the streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

In announcing the move to bar lorries with limited visibility from the driver's seat, London Mayor Sadiq Khan said the time had come for "bold action".

He added: "I'm not prepared to stand by and let dangerous lorries continue to cause further heartbreak and tragedy on London's roads."

Since 2014 174 pedestrians and 26 cyclists have been killed on the roads of London – HGVs have been involved in more than half of the cycling deaths.

"Recent data shows that HGVs were involved in 22.5 per cent of pedestrian fatalities and 58 per cent of cyclist fatalities on London's roads in 2014 and 2015, despite only making four per cent of the miles driven in the Capital," said the Mayor's spokesman.

"The restriction of drivers' field of direct vision by vehicle design has been proven to have contributed to many of these fatalities."

Sadiq Khan said: "The evidence is clear – HGVs have been directly involved in over half of cycling fatalities over the last two years, and we must take bold action to make our roads safer for both cyclists and pedestrians."

He added: "I'm determined to ensure the most dangerous zero star-rated lorries are removed from our roads completely by 2020.

"Our ground-breaking Direct Vision Standard will be the first of its kind in the world, directly addressing the issue of lethal driver blind-spots. I'm also proud that TfL will lead by example and will not use any zero-star lorries in its supply chain from the new financial year.

"By continuing to work closely with industry,

using TfL and public sector procurement and announcing our plans now, I'm confident that many of our lorries will now be upgraded well before the ban comes into place, and the benefits of a new era of modernised and safer HGVs felt by all road users across London."

TfL's Direct Vision Standard will use a 'star rating' from 0 to 5 stars to rate construction and other HGVs based on the level of vision the driver has directly from the cab.

Under the plans to be consulted on shortly, the most dangerous 'off-road' HGVs will be banned from London's streets entirely by January 2020.

These HGVs would be 'zero star rated' by the Direct Vision Standard. Only HGVs meeting 3 stars or above – 'good rating' in the new Direct Vision Standard – would be allowed on London's roads by 2024.

"Promoting safer lorries through a new Direct Vision Standard was outlined in Sadiq Khan's manifesto. There are around 35,000 of the zero star-rated 'off-road' HGVs currently operating on London's roads, and they were involved in around 70 per cent of cyclist fatalities involving HGVs in the last three years. It is this type of vehicles the Mayor has pledged to remove from London's roads by 2020," said the Mayor's spokesman.

However, The Road Haulage Association said the new rules were "unnecessary".

Its chief executive Richard Burnett told Sky News: "Demonising lorries, which keep the economy and shops going, is unfair.

"Lorries, including construction vehicles, play a vital part in the economic life of London. Without them, the capital's businesses would grind to a standstill.

"We want to bring balance to the argument. We're not convinced these measures are the solution. Improved visibility isn't going to sort the problem alone."

Cycling engineer raises £2,000

A LONDON engineer has completed the gruelling 900-mile cycling challenge from Lands End to John O'Groats – raising more than £2,000 for charity.

Craig Thompson-Hay finished his marathon journey in 12 days after travelling from one end of the country to the other.

The 33-year-old, from Victoria, was supported by his wife Kate and brother-in-law John along the way as he racked up a total of 916 miles.

And the hard work paid off as he smashed through his £2,000 fundraising target, with the total currently standing at £2,135.

Mr Thompson-Hay, who works as a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, said: "There were so many people that I met throughout the ride that were so supportive either by donating or riding with me a few miles – or even buying me dinner in a couple of cases.

"Even though I was alone for 90 per cent of the time, the views were incredible. Most people on this little island don't know how truly beautiful this country is. It was almost soothing at times being away from the city and just taking in the sights."



SUCCESS -coast to coast cyclist Craig Thompson-Hay completes his marathon journey

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Keep all those properties spruced up in Kensington

LANDLORDS who allow their properties to be run down in Kensington and Chelsea had better watch out – the clean-up Council will order them to get the paint-brush out, or even knock the building down.

In the past two years the Council has acted 50 times to force landlords to make good untidy properties in the royal borough – most recently ordering the old Tournament pub on Old Brompton Road to be demolished after it ran to ruin and squatters moved in.

“The owner of a derelict building in Earl’s Court, London District Housing, has complied with an order from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s planning enforcement team to demolish it,” said a Council spokesman.

“The poor condition of the 1960s building on the corner of Old Brompton Road and Eardley Crescent, which was previously The Tournament Public House, has been a source of local concern.

“The building has been vacant for some considerable time, attracted squatters and been the focus of anti-social behaviour in the area.

“Council planners decided to act and, as the building is of no architectural merit, ordered its demolition. Whilst not in a conservation area, the site is immediately adjacent to the Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area, the Philbeach Conservation Area and close to the grade II listed entrance to the Brompton Cemetery, which made



The Tournament pub was ordered to be demolished by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council after it became derelict. Right Councillor Tim Coleridge says this is an example of effective planning



the negative impact of the building greater still.”

An ‘untidy land’ notice under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 was served on 29 February 2016 ordering the demolition of the building by 12 August 2016. The owner of the land, London District Housing, did not exercise its right to appeal the notice and instead complied with the notice by demolishing the building.

There is no planning permission for the site and now that the building has gone planning permission will be required for any new use of the land, or any new building on the site. Residents will be consulted on any new proposals for the site in the usual way.

The Council has attracted much attention for its use of section 215 notices. In the last two years, the Council has served over 50 section 215 notices on untidy properties in the borough and it says these notices are a useful tool for improving run-down or untidy land and buildings.

“This type of notice does not in itself require demolition of buildings. We use them where the condition of land or buildings adversely affects the amenity of an area. The notice requires the owner or occupier to deal with the poor state of a building. This may mean tidying, cleaning, decorating, repairing or in this case the owner chose to demolish it,” said the spokesman.

Councillor Tim Coleridge, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, said: “I am very pleased that the owner of the land complied with the notice served by the Council. The building was an eyesore and has now been demolished.

“This is another example of effective planning enforcement which ensures rules are followed and buildings properly maintained.”

Refugee denies carnival assault

By Taylor Geall

A RECENTLY arrived migrant from war-torn Aleppo allegedly grabbed a woman’s breasts at the Notting Hill Carnival before head-butting a police officer when arrested, a court has heard.

Mohammad Al Youssfi, of Marylebone, is alleged to have grabbed the woman from behind, fondled her breasts and pressed himself against her buttocks.

When the woman, who was with two friends, one carrying a baby, complained to police, Al Youssfi was arrested but he responded by head-butting the officer, it was said.

The 23-year-old appeared at Westminster Magistrates Court last week charged with sexual assault and assaulting a police officer at the Carnival.

Edward Aydin, prosecuting, said: “Three women were walking away from the Notting Hill Carnival. One of them was carrying a baby in a shawl. He [the accused] is walking behind them and they notice him following them and they step aside for him to go by.

“But he doesn’t do that, he grabs the complainant, a 46-year-old woman wearing a jump-suit. He grabs her in a bear hug and then grabs her breasts.

“As he’s grabbed her breasts, he has pressed himself against her bottom - she felt it. It’s a one-off action. He was rubbing against her bottom. He was arrested and then he head-butted a police officer.”

Al Youssfi, who was not represented and spoke through an Arabic interpreter, accepted that he was in the vicinity, but denied that he had assaulted the woman.

Mr Aydin continued: “He is a Syrian man, from Aleppo, and has been in this country for a very short period of time. He has assaulted people, he’s violent and his demonstrated bad behaviour.

“It is a worry that someone is walking around grabbing women by their breasts. For the safety of the public, he should be remanded in custody.”

Youssfi denied one charge of sexual assault and entered no plea to the assault of a police officer.

The Chairman of the bench, Fred Ponsonby, ordered that Al Youssfi be remanded in custody. He will next appear at Hammersmith Magistrates on October 5.

Few protest over new library plans



North Kensington Library - few have protested over plans for a new library to replace the existing one on Lancaster Road

ONLY 10 per cent of residents polled by the Council over plans for the new library in North Kensington have protested against the move.

The Council is currently developing proposals for building a new and improved library for North Kensington just 50 metres away from the current library, on Lancaster Road, as part of the wider Westway Project.

When the Council recently surveyed residents for their views on the new library, which has been dogged by criticisms of plans for the existing building to be leased to a private school, 629 people responded but only 63 of them protested.

Subject to receiving the necessary planning permissions, the Council aims to open the new library by 2020. Until then, the current library will remain open.

Over the summer, the Council carried out a survey to find out what library users, residents and local community and voluntary organisations would like the new library to contain.

The themes of most importance which emerged included requests for a large selection of books, magazines and newspapers; quiet reading and study areas and

excellent Wi-Fi and IT facilities. The project team has been studying the results and feeding the comments received into the emerging design proposals.

Local residents and library users will next month have their first chance to see the Council’s emerging plans for the new North Kensington Library.

Representatives from the Council, the project team and architects, Piercy&Company, will be available at all three of the October exhibitions to answer questions and hear residents’ ideas for the new building. Follow-up exhibitions will then be held in November to update on design progress.

Public exhibitions will be held at Kensington Leisure Centre (Silchester Road W10 6EX) on the following dates: Wednesday 12 October, 4pm to 8pm; Saturday 15 October, 12pm to 6pm; Thursday 3 November, 4pm to 8pm.

Public exhibitions will be held at North Kensington Library (108 Ladbroke Grove W11 1PZ) on the following dates: Thursday 13 October, 4pm to 8pm; Wednesday 2 November, 4pm to 8pm; Saturday 5 November, 12pm to 6pm.

The full results of the Council survey can be viewed at www.rbkc.gov.uk/nklibrary

University of West London jumps 37 places in rankings

THE University of West London (UWL) has seen the biggest rise of any university in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017 jumping 37 places to No.84.

This makes UWL the 14th highest ranked university in London – out of 23 – in addition to having the best scores for happy students in the capital.

Now UWL has announced plans to become the best new university in Britain.

A spokesman said: “Ninety six per cent of our graduates are in employ-

ment within six months of graduating and in the National Student Survey the University was rated Best University in London for Student Satisfaction

Vice Chancellor Professor Peter John said “We are absolutely delighted with these results but not surprised as we have been working towards this outcome for a number of years.

“This is the result of an ambitious strategic plan, well executed and underpinned by investment in infrastructure, academic staff and our curriculum, all of which is reflected

positively in the quality of our teaching. We already have the best graduate employment in London and we are in the top quartile for salaries of graduates entering full-time employment in the UK.

“We intend to build on this success as we aim to become the best contemporary University in the UK – not just London – transforming the lives of all of our students through the delivery of high quality, career focused education programmes.”

The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017 complimented UWL on its “amazing im-

provement”, remarking that the University has gone up on every measure where there is new data this year, but has gained most from huge rises in student satisfaction following last year’s opening of the Future Campus.

The University offers students embedded work placements and work experience, in-study financial support and good employment prospects. Undergraduates have access to an award-winning student portal, which combines academic study with social networking.

Festive spirit

WINTER Wonderland returns to London’s Hyde Park this year for its 10th run.

From November 18 to January 2 get into the festive spirit at this free to enter family event.

Visitors can enjoy traditional fairground ride alongside ice skating, big top shows, an observation wheel and a huge Christmas market.

New for 2016 will be an arctic adventure past icebergs and ice sculptures to a lost island in the Magical Ice Kingdom.

Royal praise for the thin blue line

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

IT was fitting that Prince Charles should have led the tributes to the police who protect us at the recent National Police Memorial Day, for few know better than the royals the value of protection by the brave blue line – not least his great-great-grandmother, who survived seven assassination attempts.

The prince, who is patron of the memorial day, paid tribute at the recent service at St Paul's to those he said had "paid the ultimate sacrifice while safeguarding our families, our communities and our liberty".

In the order of service he wrote: "For many of us, the security challenges of today further underscore the importance of the Police and their ongoing commitment to protecting us all, despite the inevitable risks that they face on a daily basis."

The security challenge of being Queen Victoria was certainly somewhat demanding and she endured numerous attempts on her life and even allowed herself to be used as "bait" to catch the culprits.

"The first, in 1837, was perpetrated by a man who claimed to be the true heir to the British throne and the son of George IV," reported historian Debra Kelly.

"When trying to break into Kensington Palace to claim his 'rightful' place didn't work, he settled for charging her carriage, armed with a pistol. For his trouble, he was shipped off to an insane asylum."

"In 1840, a waiter who didn't believe that England should be in the hands



Edward Oxford Attempts to Assassinate Queen Victoria and Prince Albert" by C.I Doughty

The security challenge of being Queen Victoria was certainly somewhat demanding and she endured numerous attempts on her life

of a woman fired several shots at both Prince Albert and a four-months-pregnant queen. He, too, ended up in an insane asylum, although he was released in 1867 and left the country.

"In 1842, the young royal was fired at once as she was returning from church. The shooter escaped, but returned the next day to give it another try."

"Using the Queen herself as bait, at her insistence, the police lured out the would-be assassin and arrested him when he tried to kill her again. He was sentenced to death for his attempt, but was eventually deported to a penal colony off the coast of Australia."

"Five weeks later, the Queen was

attacked again while riding in an open carriage. This time, the would-be assassin was a hunch-backed teenage dwarf armed with a pistol that had been badly loaded with paper and broken pipes.

"It misfired, and although he initially escaped, he was captured when police simply began rounding up the city's hunch-backed dwarfs. He received only an 18-month prison sentence."

"Seven years later, an improperly-loaded pistol wielded by an Irish farm labourer misfired made the next attempt on her life. And in 1850, a man named Robert Pate got close enough to the Queen to hit her."

"A retired army man, Pate hit the Queen with his walking stick when she was walking home after visiting an ill relative."

"No stranger to assault and assassination attempts by this point, the Queen's remarks included a sadness that a man would think it acceptable to strike a woman, and that at least those who tried to shoot her showed more courage. That night, the bruised Queen went out to the opera."

"The next assassination attempt came in 1872 from an Irishman wielding a non-functional pistol and a document he wanted her to sign, freeing the Irish from English rule. He, too, was ultimately deported to Australia."

"The final attack on her life came in 1882, when she was again shot at as she was traveling in a carriage. This man not only hated the Queen, but also the number four. Additionally, he believed that there were supernatural powers to be found in blue things."

Dorset getaway dedicated to 'my darling grandmother'

FOR Londoners looking to retire to the country and be quids-in about it, the Prince of Wales's dream town is nearing completion and soon it will be officially opened by The Queen.

The West Dorset new town of Poundbury, built on 400 acres of Duchy of Cornwall land just outside Dorchester in the heart of Thomas Hardy country, will provide homes for 5,000 when it is fully finished by 2025.

Already more than 2,500 people have moved there, not least because if you swap a home in the capital for a new place in Prince Charles's perfect town you will be making a killing.

The price of an average four-bed home in Kensington for instance currently ranges between £3,900,000 and £8 million.

But in perfect Poundbury you can currently buy a four-bed, three-storey detached home with a double garage, spanning new and looking grand, for £630,000.

One does not to be a maths master to see the lure of a right royal move; selling a four-bedder in Kensington even at the lowest end of the scale could buy those seeking to retire a splendid new place in Poundbury and leave them more than £3 million in the bank to live off.

An added bonus is the peace of mind and safety of living in Poundbury. Whereas police in the royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea record 1,685 crimes in July this year, including one murder, 404 violent attacks, eight rapes and 108 burglaries, in the same period the local bobby in Poundbury recorded 61 crimes, including two bicycle thefts.

At a time when the Mayor of London is urgently looking for sites on which to build the tens of thousands of new homes for Londoners, the prince's Poundbury provides an object lesson in urban design, not least ecologically.

With Prince Charles as the landlord it is not surprising that Poundbury homes will be among the most eco-efficient in the UK.

"New homes in Poundbury are being built with their impact on the environment very much in mind. These houses are exceptionally well insulated and some incorporate market leading sustainable technologies such as solar tubes, photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting," said a spokesman for the new town where all the buses are only electric.

"Solar hot water heating will supply approximately 70 per cent of the annual hot water demand for the houses, photovoltaic roof panels, panel of 16 integrated photovoltaic tiles fitted to houses, will provide at least one third of the annual electricity demand and rainwater harvesting and dual flush toilets will reduce water bills by about 50 per cent."

"In addition, water butts at the apartments will collect rainwater from the roof to supply the communal garden, heat recovery ventilation will take heat from air extracted from the kitchen and bathroom to warm the main living rooms and bedrooms, and sheep wool loft insulation has the potential to last the lifetime of the building."

"I am trying," says Prince Charles, "to demonstrate the long-term value of building in an ecologically sustainable way at Poundbury."

"Not only can 'green' buildings



Philip Jackson's sculpture of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to stand in Queen Mother Square at Poundbury in Dorset

earn higher rents and prices, but also cost less to operate and maintain. I hope this will go some way to convincing even the most hard-headed commercial operators that sustainability is something worth thinking about!"

With at least 10 cafes and restaurants, two pubs including The Duchess of Cornwall inn and hotel, cake shops, a Waitrose and 40 businesses employing 1,660, the new town will offer every convenience for those seeking to live within a short drive to the heart of Hardy country, including a colonic hydrotherapist and Reiki centre, a yoga studio, beauty spa and even its own resident psychic counsellor.

It will also get Her Majesty's blessing shortly when The Queen visits Poundbury to unveil a statue of Prince Charles's grandmother at its centrepiece, Queen Mother Square.

The 9'6" tall statue is the exact casting of the Queen Mother's statue standing in the Mall, which was unveiled in February 2009 by The Queen. The statue shows the Queen Mother at the age of 51, when she was widowed, although she did go on to live another 50 years.

It was chosen by The Prince of Wales, who described the sculpture as "a fitting tribute to my darling grandmother", and created by internationally renowned sculptor Philip Jackson, who met the Queen Mother when she was 100, to present her with a statue of her late husband King George VI.

"Meeting the Queen Mother at the time was incredibly useful because one could see what a great spirit she was," said Mr Jackson.

"Even at that age she was a remarkable example of how you can live life to the full, right to the very end."

"When you look at the photographs and the footage, you seldom catch her without a smile on her face – it was so obvious that she had the spark of life in her and I really wanted to get that life into the work."

"But at the same time, this is an official memorial, showing her as Elizabeth the Queen, so what I did was to get the wind just moving her robes slightly, and a faint smile playing on her lips."



Prince Charles leads tributes at The National Police Memorial Day at St Paul's Cathedral

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DESPITE a Foreign Office warning that it is unsafe to travel there, Prince Charles is being sent by the Government to Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates next month.

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall are to be dispatched to the strife-ridden Middle East to bolster ties with Britain and, doubtless, increase exports.

Although by rights it should be the business of Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson to fly the flag and wave the sales dockets, Prince Charles has been chosen as he is well known to the region and has made eight such trips to the UAE since 1980 and another five trips to Oman and Bahrain.

However, in announcing the visit Clarence House has made it plain that this is perhaps not exactly the prince's dream holiday of all time, nor, possibly, his choice.

"On behalf of the British Government, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall will undertake official visits to the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates in November 2016," said the official statement, adding curtly: "the tour will help to strengthen the United Kingdom's warm bilateral relations with key partners in the region."

Warm it may be, with temperatures rising to around 88F, but the area is also becoming a hotbed for terror activity.

The Foreign Office is officially warning travellers to the UAE "there is a high threat from terrorism". It says there is a "general threat of terrorism" in Oman and when describing the dangers in Bahrain the FO becomes expansive in its warnings.

"Demonstrations and protests take place regularly and can turn violent. You should be vigilant, avoid large crowds and demonstrations and be alert to local and regional developments," says the Foreign Office.

"On 16 April 2016, an attack took place in Karbabad against security personnel. One policeman was killed and two others severely injured.

"On 28 August 2015, an attack against security personnel took place near Karranah village which resulted in 1 fatality and several casualties.

"On 28 July 2015, there was an attack on a bus transporting security personnel in Sitra, which led to fatalities.

"Large caches of explosives and weapons have been discovered by the Bahraini authorities, most recently 21 July 2016.

"There were fatal bomb explosions in East Eker on 30 June 2016, in the village of Demistan near Hamad Town on 8 and 9 December 2014 and on the Budaiya Highway near Al Daih on 3 March 2014.

"There is a high threat from terrorism. Terrorists continue to issue statements threatening to carry out attacks in the Gulf region."

Given such a litany of warnings, it is perhaps surprising that the Government feels that the region is the perfect place for the future King to catch a bit of winter sun.

However, it is expected that Prince Charles's usual protection officers will be augmented by a squad from the SAS.

But even special forces are unlikely to protect Charles from likely protests from civil rights activists, especially in regard to his visit to Bahrain.

The British Government's relationship with Bahrain has faced frequent criticism, including in a report by the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee published in April.

MPs said there was "plainly a perception" that the issue of human rights had been downgraded in the Government's dealings with countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain.

The then Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond defended his department, saying: "Improving human rights is a core function of the Foreign Office and is the responsibility of every British diplomat around the world."

Indeed, human rights protests over Charles's trip have already started, way before he even leaves the Duty Free shop at Heathrow.



Camilla Duchess of Cornwall and Prince Charles will be visiting Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates despite Foreign Office advice not to travel there

Are Charles and Camilla being sent into danger?

Anti-arms trade campaigners and Human Rights Watch have described the visit as "extremely disappointing" and "totally inappropriate".

Nicholas McGeehan, Bahrain researcher at Human Rights Watch, told The Independent: "Prince Charles has taken a free-thinking, principled stance on many important issues, so it's difficult to credit that he's not aware of the serious and worsening human rights situation in Bahrain.

"It's extremely disappointing that he's agreed to help the British government ingratiate itself further with such an abusive government."

Human Rights Watch does not exactly speak in glowing terms of any free and easy living in Bahrain.

"In 2015, further evidence emerged of the torture and mistreatment of detainees, pointing to the ineffectiveness of institutions established since 2011 to safeguard detainees, and the persistent failure of authorities to hold officials accountable for torture and other serious rights violations," records the group in its annual state of the planet report.

"Anti-government protests continued despite a ban on freedom of assembly, and police used excessive force to disperse demonstrators.

"Authorities continued to restrict freedom of expression, prosecuting high profile activists and opposition figures for speech-related offences and subjecting them to unfair trials.

"The government used repressive new legislation to arbitrarily strip rights activists and political dissidents of their citizenship, in some cases rendering them stateless. Authorities at-

tributed the deaths of three police officers in two incidents to terrorist attacks."

And on allegations of torture, Human Rights Watch is none-too complimentary either.

"Torture of detainees continued due to the failure of authorities to implement effectively recommendations for combatting torture that the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) put forward in 2011.

"Individuals detained at the Criminal Investigations Directorate between 2013 and 2015 described a range of torture methods used there, including electric shock, prolonged suspension in painful positions, severe beatings, threats to rape and kill, forced standing, exposure to extreme cold, and abuse of a sexual nature.

"In 2011, the BICI report had identified all of these methods of torture and concluded that the authorities 'followed a systematic practice of physical and psychological mistreatment, which in many cases amounted to torture, with respect to a large number of detainees in their custody.'

"Bahraini lawyers complained about official practices that have the effect of circumventing the country's legislative safeguards against torture, particularly the authorities' failure to divulge the whereabouts of detained suspects, often for weeks at a time.

"Former detainees and families of inmates held at Jaw Prison alleged that security forces firing tear gas and bird shot used disproportionate force to quell violent unrest among prisoners there on March 10, 2015.

"They then subjected inmates to torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, in-

cluding forcing hundreds of prisoners to stay outside in open areas, where they beat and humiliated them.

"One prisoner described how security forces made inmates strip to their underwear and perform exercises while shouting chants in support of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

"Another described how officers broke an inmate's collarbone and then left him without medical attention. A group of inmates accused of encouraging the riot were taken to a separate building, where some were severely beaten in toilets and administration rooms, where there are no cameras.

"The institutions that the authorities established in response to the BICI report findings and recommendations, in particular the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the Ministry of Interior Ombudsman, are still failing to hold security forces and high officials accountable for torture and serious mistreatment of persons in custody.

"The SIU has not conducted investigations or prosecutions that have led to the conviction of any individuals for acts of torture in cases relating to Bahrain's political unrest. The ombudsman, who accepts individual complaints and directs them to the appropriate investigatory authority, did not provide details concerning the 83 cases his office referred to the SIU, so it is unclear how many may have related to allegations of torture."

Clearly Charles faces having his diplomatic work cut out for him and pressure from human rights groups for him to speak out against injustice during his visit.

Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Wild Beasts

Roundhouse, Camden
Tuesday October 4

Quirky indie-rockers who perfected smooth sound on succession of hit records. Duelling vocalists Hayden Thorpe and Tom Fleming delight on meandering tunes that plunder the dictionary for bizarre phraseology. Roundhouse show comes hot on the heels of band's critically-acclaimed fifth album *Boy King*.



Heaven 17

Jazz Café, Camden
Wednesday October

Glorious return for 80s new-wavers who pioneered infectious pop sound alongside the likes of *The Human League*. Enjoyed greatest success with number two hit *Temptation* back in 1983 but have continued to record and tour. Originally a trio, the Sheffield boys were reduced to only Martyn Ware and Glenn Gregory when Ian Marsh quit the band in 2007.



Jamie T

Brixton Academy, Brixton
Saturday October 9

South London singer-songwriter returns for homecoming shows to celebrate huge success of latest album *Trick*. Ticking past 30 this year, the Wimbledon rocker has gone from bright young thing to circuit veteran. Still loved by adoring fans for his brooding lyrics and scratchy pop-punk guitars.

KRAFTWERK are not easy to pin down. Despite their huge influence, the German techno pioneers are famous for dodging the limelight.

The members of the band are rarely spotted off stage and interview requests are frequently shunned. Even Coldplay's Chris Martin found himself rebuffed with a single-word reply when he wrote to the four-piece seeking approval for the use of a melody in his 2005 track *Talk*.

It is this sense of mystery, however, that adds to the allure around Kraftwerk. Few other artists can have said so little yet attracted so much attention over a career fast approaching half a century.

This is a band that has always allowed its music to do the talking – and while they may not be masters of self-promotion, Kraftwerk's voice rings out loud and clear.

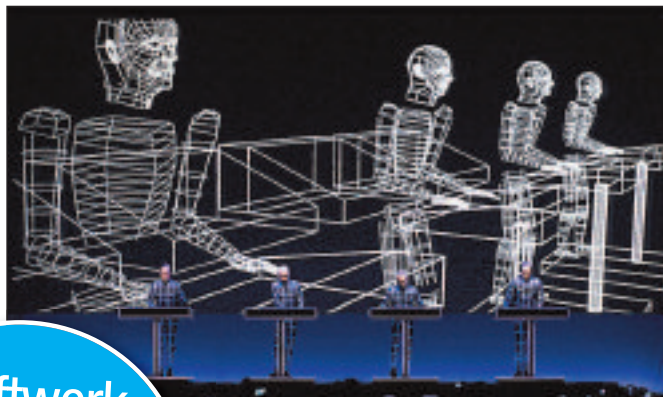
As a reaction both to the wonder and the horror of technological advancement, the band's rigid, computerised compositions became the sound of our brave new world.

While only ever flirting with the charts – most notably 1981's *The Model* – Kraftwerk is often credited with laying the foundations of the synth-driven pop format that dominates the airwaves today.

The band describes its style using the German term 'einfach musik' – 'everyday music'.

"Kraftwerk is a living organism," said Ralf Hütter, the band's sole remaining original member, in an interview with the *New York Times* back in 2012.

"Music is never finished. It starts again tomorrow. The record is just a record, but for us it's nearly boring.



Kraftwerk Live at the Albert Hall

by Jack Dixon

"We like better the programs that we can operate with. So we are operating, we are upgrading, we are updating continuously."

Performing live has become a new creative realm for Kraftwerk, which has not released a studio album since 2003's *Tour de France*.

Featuring an impressive display of flashing lights and 3D images, along with the band's trademark row of four stationary podiums, Kraftwerk live has earned a reputation among the most sought-after bookings in the business.

It didn't take long for keen-eyed fans to install the Germans as favourites to headline next year's Glastonbury Festival after the band announced its latest UK tour, culminating with a double header of dates at the Royal Albert Hall in central London.

Few details have been revealed about the forthcoming 3D concerts but a recent appearance at the Lati-

tude Festival in Suffolk hinted at the stunning visuals the band are capable of generating on stage.

Mixed in with its obscure lyrical references to transport, the pervasiveness of technology and the watchful eye of the 24-hour media, Kraftwerk is likely to serve up a slice of the avant-garde that will be a little too rich for some to stomach.

For band member Karl Bartos, though, Kraftwerk is the antidote to homogenised pop music.

"Music has become a sort of fuel for other business models. It's not existing anymore," he told music website *Thump* earlier this year.

"They're dealing with 'amounts' of songs. Millions of songs for this and that. It's just about numbers. Is this music? I don't like it. I think it's a big mistake."

Confronting the German four-piece on the festival stage next summer may feel like a daunting experience. But it should come as no surprise to find the rest of the bill populated by artists who have taken their queue from Kraftwerk.

Kraftwerk will perform at London's Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday June 21 and Thursday June 22. Tickets are now on sale.



Andrew Marr in *My Brain and Me*

Andrew Marr on a journey to recovery

TOP political broadcaster Andrew Marr is to give inspiration to stroke victims in an intimate film that reveals the brave story of how he survived and recovered from a stroke that threatened to end his life and career.

In the BBC documentary *My Brain And Me*, Andrew will share the highs and lows of his journey and private determination to recover from his stroke of 2013.

Intensive physiotherapy has restored some movement to Andrew's left side, but with limited progress over the last year he explores a range of new and cutting-edge stroke treatments, including cranial stimulation.

The film follows Andrew's progress over the last six months during which time the political anchorman has to cope with the pressures of the Brexit vote and consequent change in Prime Minister – in his own words "the biggest story I've ever covered" – whilst also managing a new book, two other documentaries and his regular weekly television and radio shows.

All this from a man who believes that over-work and stress could have brought him and his brain to the brink of death.

"For the first time Andrew returns to the hospital that saved his life and meets the consultant who told his family he had little chance of survival. With interviews from some of his closest family and friends we gain an insight into Andrew the man and the struggles every stroke victim faces once the immediate medical crisis is over," said a BBC spokesman.

Marr said: "Stroke can happen to anyone at any time, and is one of the biggest killers in modern society but to begin to recover, is to be taken on a journey into cutting-edge discoveries about the human brain, and to learn lessons that go way beyond getting better from an illness.

"If this film helps other people who have gone through what I have gone through, and their families, that's all I can possibly ask for."

No excuses, Mike's proud of his work

SINGER-songwriter Mike Rosenberg, better known as busker-turned-chart-topper Passenger, says he is out to impress with his new record, *Young as the Morning, Old as the Sea*.

The 32-year-old – most famous for his 2014 single *Let Her Go* – said he was "so proud" of the new album as he premiered tracks to fans in central London.

Written with the help of an incredible line-up of musicians, including Ben Edgar (guitar), Rob Clader (bass), Peter Martin (drums) and Jon Solo (keyboards), the Brighton-born singer is set for a fresh assault on the charts.

Fans enjoyed a first taste of the record – his eighth studio album – less than 24 hours after its release during an in-store performance at HMV in Oxford Street last weekend. The new tracks show off Rosen-

berg's exquisite gift for songcraft as well as his distinctively smooth delivery.

He teamed up with producer Chris Vallejo (INXS, *Empire of the Sun*) for the album, which was recorded at Roundhead Studios in Auckland – a recording space lovingly built from scratch by Crowded House frontman Neil Finn.

"I've done pretty much an album a year for the last decade and the worry is that you don't live with things for long enough," said Rosenberg.

"I know the most recent record is probably always my favourite, but I honestly feel this is the first time I can play the new record to people and not feel obliged to make excuses. I'm so proud of it."

Passenger's new album *Young as the Morning, Old as the Sea* is out now.



Mike Rosenberg

Capital nights

AT the age of 95 and having taken the back seat in the limelight for the almost-70 years of his marriage to The Queen, Prince Philip is to get his own TV show.

When Phillip Met Prince Philip is the title of a new documentary celebrating the 60th anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and starring Prince Philip and Philip Schofield.

"As The Duke of Edinburgh's Award enters a symbolic year, Phillip will explore the work of the charity through exclusive access to many major celebratory events, as well as speaking to members of the Royal Family, including The Duke of Edinburgh and The Earl and Countess of Wessex about their involvement," said an ITV spokesman.

"As well as his attendance at a special Gold Award Presentation in the garden at Buckingham Palace, Phillip Schofield will look back at the early days of the Duke of Edinburgh and gain a close perspective on his work and the dedicated effort the charity makes in supporting the development of young people all over the world.



"Schofield will meet with The Duke of Edinburgh as he reflects on the achievement award he set up in 1956 and talks about its positive impact on the young people who take part, and he will also speak with The Earl and Countess of Wessex about the global reach of the DofE as well as their own roles in the continuing success of the Charity. "Additionally, to mark its 60th year, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has created a one-time-only Diamond Challenge and thrown its doors wide open to applicants of all ages, whether newcomers or former participants, encouraging them - Phillip Schofield included - to carry out

their own personal 'challenge' so that they can raise money for the DofE Charity and receive a special Diamond Anniversary Challenge Pin.

"The programme will be a unique celebration of the six decades' worth of work of the DofE, designed to encourage personal discovery and self-reliance. Millions of young people spanning 141 countries and territories have done their DofE since 1956; in the UK alone, over 2.5 million Awards have been achieved by young people."

Peter Westgarth, Chief Executive of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, said: "This is a momentous year for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charity as we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary; 60 years of transforming the life and work prospects of millions of young people, from all backgrounds and circumstances, in the UK and worldwide.

"The documentary is a fantastic opportunity for us to reflect on these past successes but also to showcase the positive impact of the DofE on today's generation and the potential for generations to come, helping young people to be happy, healthy, socially conscious and more employable.

"We're excited to be able to capture such a pivotal year, give a unique insight into the DofE in 2016 and thank our Founder, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, for setting up what has become the world's leading achievement award for young people."

Meet the parents!

ITV is to turn every teenager's nightmare into a new dating show in which the romantic futures of a group of singletons is put into the hands of the people who know them best: their parents. Meet The Parents, hosted by Holly Willoughby, should be an eye-opener.

"In their quest to find love, nothing is off limits, as the picker looking for romance gets to ask their potential suitors' parents anything," said an ITV spokesman, highlighting the squirm factor which should make the forthcoming series a hit.

"Mum and Dad then get busy spilling the beans, on everything from their off-spring's relationship history and grooming habits, to questionable celebrity crushes and cringe-worthy childhood stories.

"While the parents are being quizzed, the guys and girls hoping to be chosen see and hear everything, and have no control over what their parents are revealing. However, if mum and dad go too far, they can make just one urgent phone call to speak to them.

"Once the picker has finished grilling the parents, they make their decision. Though before they come face-to-face with their date, they get to meet the ones they turned down."

Holly said: "We all know how embarrassing parents can be and nobody knows you better than they do. I can't wait to hear what humiliating secrets they'll be revealing and see who will regret leaving their love life in the hands of their parents."

Sandé steps back into the limelight

SHE was the glamour girl who became the darling of the London Olympics. Emeli Sandé's own unlikely rise to fame seemed to chime perfectly with the underdog achievements of Team GB.

But the Sunderland-born Scot was certainly no one-hit wonder. By the time the torch was on its way to Rio, she had earned her rightful place among the biggest-selling artists in pop.

Entering the charts at Number One, her debut album *Our Version of Events*, held onto the top spot for five consecutive weeks and became the fastest-selling record by a British artist since Susan Boyle's *I Dreamed a Dream*.

Now 29, and with album number two on the way in November, she is beginning to reach the peak of her powers.

But it won't be the world stage on which she makes her long-awaited return. Sandé has instead opted for a series of intimate shows at smaller venues to help her seep back into the public consciousness. It won't be the Olympic Stadium this time around, but rather the tiny Church of St John at Hackney.

"I really wanted to reconnect with my fans on an intimate level," said the singer, whose appearance in London is one of only two dates planned in

the UK this year.

"It's been a really long time - so much has happened and these small shows felt like the perfect way to catch up."

The tour announcement follows Sandé's return with the epic new single *Hurts*, which was released earlier this month, and comes ahead of the album, *Long Live The Angels*, which is due to hit record stores on November 11.

Sandé says the album "crackles with energy and a sense of euphoria". Certain tracks may be slower in spirit but are all the more dynamic in delivery.

"I made sure the production wasn't overworked," the singer points out. "And I really went for it vocally!"

Sandé's outstanding voice sits at the heart of the record, underscoring her mastery of both technique and form - but also her natural intuition as a singer.

She also says the album - four years in the making - marks the start of a brand new chapter in her life.

"I'm proud of my first album and thankful for the experiences it gave me but I'm so much happier with my new album and where I am in my life."

Emeli Sandé performs at the Church of St John at Hackney on Thursday October 6.

The new album *Long Live The Angels* is out on October 6.



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Talk of the town

THE story of the Yorkshire housewives, who decided to make Women's Institute calendar in the nude to raise money for charity has become modern day folk law. The heart-warming tale is to take on yet another life as a stage musical entitled *The Girls*, which has been co-written by Tim Firth and Gary Barlow and is set to take London by storm, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

I had the absolute honour of meeting three of the real 'Calendar Girls' Trish Stewart, Angela Knowles and Christine Clancy, for a chat about the new musical and about how the now legendary story began.

From the very first moment the trio enter the room, I know I'm in for a treat. Their open faces and utter zest for life emanates from every pore and I'm completely taken with their passion for the project and their lasting determination to continue the work, which they started more than 18 years ago.

Like the 2003 film, which starred Helen Mirren and Julie Walters, *The Girls* follows a group of WI members as they embark on a very special project. The story catapulted the northern lasses to worldwide fame. However, when Trish Stewart and Angela Knowles initially had the idea for the titillating tableaux, it was nothing more than a jape.

Trish said: "Every year at WI we do a calendar and each year we're asked if we have a photograph to submit, which will possibly be chosen. This particular year, I just turned to Angela and said we could do an alternative WI calendar, where we could feature the crafts of WI, but in the

nude. It was a joke and we joked about it for a long time."

Angela's husband John was diagnosed with an uncommon type of blood cancer later that year and the pair decided they would have a serious look at undertaking the foray, in order to raise money for the charity which supports research into cures and treatments for the sufferers.

"It was only when John was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma that the idea of the calendar came back. We thought we'd do it and he would be getting better and he'd come and watch us having our photographs taken, but John died after just five months," Trish said.

Angela added: "He (John) did know about it. We told him what we were going to do, what month we'd like to be and what craft we would like to be doing. He just shook his head and said 'You'll never do it because you're just all talk', but you don't say that to a group of feisty Yorkshire ladies do you?" She laughs and says: "Especially when Trisha's got her clipboard."

After John died the troop of 12 beauties took up the challenge and went about making the calendar, partly as a way to keep Angela busy as she began to come to terms with her bereavement. They enlisted the skills of famous local artist Terry Logan as their photographer and his wife was strong-armed into joining the group as Miss July.



Everybody thought we were brave but most of us weren't

London Weekly News reporter Nicky Sweetland, second left, with the original Calendar Girls Angela Knowles, left, Trish Stewart and Christine Clancy

Trish said: "They took the photographs in their house. They set them all up and it all just worked from there."

Angela chimed in: "It was magical."

What happened next, you would need to have been living under a rock to not know about.

With an initial print run of 3000, the ladies expected they would struggle to sell the calendars and so planned to mulch and burn the leftovers, but in reality, they sold more than 80,000 copies.

The New York Times picked up the story in January 2000 and that's when the world really began to embrace the women behind the delicately placed cupcakes and neatly nestled knitted hats.

Angela said: "We had no idea how successful it was going to be and I think if we had, we'd have been terrified."

Christine said: "I'd have run a mile."

The trio erupted into fits of laughter. Christine and Ros, who was Miss November, were petrified.

"Everybody thought we were brave, but most of us weren't. Ang was still in shock and followed us from place to place because it was something for her to do," said Trish.

There is a change to a more pensive mood and I ask Angela if she feels the process helped in some way with her grief.

After a moment's thought she replied: "I just felt like we were doing something - we were raising money to help others and John hadn't died in vain. For me and my family that was huge thing."

After the success of the film, writer Tim Firth adapted the story into a stage play, which enjoyed a successful run in the West End and was performed by amateur theatre groups across the country.

The ladies watched quite a number of the productions and were hugely impressed. Trish said: "Those ladies were braver than us, taking their clothes off night after night in the village hall in front of their neighbours and their friends!"

They all giggle and Angela added: "We were at Terry and Linda's house with the curtains drawn, dropping the dressing gown and putting it straight back on. We weren't walking about the stage."

In 2013 the ladies completed their last calendar (Angela confides that they were having to get bigger props!) and they assumed that they had come to the end of their time in the spotlight, but soon after, they received a phone call from producer David Pugh.

He told them that he had been working on a musical with Gary Barlow and Tim Firth and would like to involve them in the development process. They were invited to rehearsals and one of the first workshops took place in a nearby village hall.

Angela said: "The first time we heard it, they came to Burnshall, which is a tiny village near where we live. There were only 75 people there, including Gary Barlow and it was magical."

Trish added: "The producers wanted to start it small in The Dales because that's how we began."

The musical, *The Girls* has already wowed audiences with performances in Leeds and Manchester and will open at the Phoenix Theatre on Charing Cross Road in February. As well as boasting music by British favourite Gary Barlow, the production features choreography by Lizzi Gee and has an all-star cast to play the unadorned Yorkshire lovelies, including Michele Dotrice, Claire Moore and Joanna Riding.

To date, the Calendar Girls have raised over £4million for the BLOODWISE charity, with much of the money going to research cures and treatments. In fact, since they first began their fundraising, the number of children who survive following a diagnosis of leukemia has increased by 80 per cent.

The musical will continue to raise money for the cause, with a percentage of the profits going straight to the charity. As a mark of goodwill to West End audiences, Barlow and Firth have also decided to offer tickets with no booking fees or premium rates.

I ask the girls, what they think audiences will enjoy about the musical.

Christine said: "It's uplifting, it's funny, the music is fantastic and it tells our story. The things that have happened to us, happen to others as well and it will make them feel better." Trish added: "It's inspirational."

The Girls will begin previews from January 28 at the Phoenix Theatre www.thegirlsmusical.com



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Talk of the town

1984 ****

WITH the continued climate of political cynicism, which seems to be choking our newsfeeds, George Orwell's classic and frighteningly foreboding novel, 1984, echoes many of the issues we face in today's society.

Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan's adaptation, which returned to the West End earlier this year, further illustrates the sinister similarities *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Set in Oceania, 1984, tells the story of Winston, a regular man who struggles to come to terms with a world where language and even thoughts are controlled and policed by the ruling party and their allegorical leader Big Brother.

In the show's programme the writers talk about the importance of the book's appendix and in focusing on the subtext have managed to keep the story intact for fans, while at the same time updating the notion of the dystopian world enough for newcomers to appreciate its horror. It's a world in which people are slaves to screens and sounds all too familiar (in fact, one theatre-goer on my visit couldn't bring herself to look away from hers!) Many of Orwell's inventions, like Room 101, have become part of our culture, giving this play a huge impact.

There are exceptional performances throughout, particularly from Andrew Gower as Winston and, although at times the action becomes a little chaotic and slightly bewildering, the fran-

tic nature of the piece merely adds to the excitement.

It is easy to see why 1984 is often considered one of the 20th century's greatest literary achievements and the gripping production at the

Playhouse Theatre cleverly and worryingly brings the story right up to date, leaving audiences feeling ill at ease.

1984 runs at the Playhouse Theatre until October 29. Visit the website <http://1984theplay.co.uk>



The cast of 1984 at the Playhouse Theatre

Photo by Manuel Harlan



Barrowman joins Disney show

JOHN Barrowman has been confirmed as the performing MC for Disney's Broadway Hits at the Royal Albert Hall next month, as a small number of extra tickets are released for this hugely popular show.

The actor and musical-theatre performer will lead an all-star cast, featuring Oscar-winning composer and performer Alan Menken and a host of West End and Broadway favourites, including Scarlett Strallen, Ashley Brown and Merle Dandridge.

The 5,000 standard seats were snapped up in a matter of minutes when the event went on sale in July, but VIP, hospitality and once-in-a-lifetime meet-and-great packages are available, as well as tickets in the gallery.

Disney's Broadway Hits, on Sunday October 23, celebrates more than two decades of stunning Broadway shows - visit www.royalalberthall.com.

Stepping back into the West End

RICHARD Harris' award winning comedy Stepping Out will tap its way into the West End next year, bringing an all-star cast to the Vaudeville Theatre next year.

Amanda Holden, pictured, Angela Griffin, Tracy-Ann Oberman, Tamzin Outhwaite and Nicola Stephenson will be dancing into town following a UK tour of the show, directed by Maria Friedman.

The production, which features new staging, is a wonderfully funny and heart-warming play, charting the lives of seven women and one man attempting to tap their troubles away at a weekly dancing class.

Initially all thumbs and left feet, the group is just getting to grips with the basics when they are asked to take part in a charity gala. Over the course of several months we meet the group, and all of them have a story to tell.

There's perfectionist Vera, mouthy Maxine, uptight Andy, bubbly Sylvia, shy Dorothy, eager Lynne, cheerful Rose and, of course, Geoffrey. At the piano is the dour Mrs Fraser and spurring them all on, the ever-patient Mavis.

One of the UK's most popular personalities, Amanda Holden, plays Vera. Nominated for an Olivier Award in 2004 for her leading role in Thoroughly Modern Millie, she also starred in the UK premiere of Shrek The Musical as Princess Fiona and has been a judge on Britain's Got Talent throughout all of its ten series.

The rest of the twinkle-toed troupe includes Angela Griffin, Tracy-Ann Oberman, Tamzin Outhwaite and Nicola Stephenson.

Stepping Out will open at the Vaudeville Theatre on March 1, 2017.

The website is www.nimaxtheatres.com



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Talk of the town



Niamh Cusack in *Unfaithful*

Photo Marc Brenner

Harry Enfield debuts in the theatre

ONE of Britain's top comedians and entertainers is to appear at a leading South London theatre later this year.

Harry Enfield will make his debut in a theatre role by playing Hollywood studio boss Glogauer in Richard Jones' production of *Once in a Lifetime* at the Young Vic.

Joining Harry in the company at the Waterloo-based theatre are Daniel Abelson, Claudie Blakley, Okorie Chukwu, Lucy Cohu, Lizzy Connolly, Buffy Davis, Otto Farrant, Amy Griffiths, Amanda Lawrence and John Marquez.

The piece is about three actors in a struggling vaudeville troupe who travel west to try their luck in 1930s Hollywood. With the advent of talking pictures, it's a changing industry.

A chance meeting with a film journalist gives May, George and Jerry an idea. Brimming withchutzpah they found a school of elocution for starlets of the silver screen, to help them adapt to 'talkies'.

When their scheme takes off they are plunged into the

frenetic world of a Hollywood studio, full of glitz and glamour - but as their responsibilities escalate, will the lustre last?

The production will be in the main house between Friday, November 25 and Saturday January 14 next year. It will be adapted by Christopher Hart and directed by Richard Jones.

Elsewhere the Young Vic has announced it will also be staging productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *See Me Now* next year.

Joe Hill-Gibbins will return to the Young Vic following his critically acclaimed production of *Measure For Measure* last year with a dark production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* designed by Johannes Schütz. It will play in the main house between February 17 and April 1.

See Me Now will be created and performed by a company of current and former sex workers who will share their true stories. The production will be staged in the Maria studio between February 11 and March 4 and will be directed by Mimi Poskitt.

Harry Enfield



Unfaithful ★★★★★

WITH the high temperatures in London showing no signs of letting up, a play to match the steamy weather is making audiences very hot under the collar *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Nestled just off Charing Cross Road, London's trendiest new performance space, Found 111, is playing host to Owen McCafferty's *Unfaithful*, a production brimming with style and filled with sexual desire.

As the title suggests, *Unfaithful* depicts the story of two couples, which become embroiled in an adulterous and highly emotional episode.

Sean Campion and Niamh Cusack play a middle aged pairing, who have begun to think about the possibility of sexual exploration outside the constraints of their safe and mundane existence, while Matthew Lewis and Ruta Gedmintas portray an altogether different relationship, with the young couple struggling to come to terms with Lewis' lucrative career as a male escort. As the relationships cleverly become entwined,

An exquisite little window into the world of human emotions

we are taken on an alarmingly frank journey of lustful discovery.

With a powerful and emotive performance by Cusack and an equally thought provoking turn by Campion, the scenes between the mature couple sizzle and although the younger actors don't ever quite manage to match the same level of electricity, both Lewis and Gedmintas add some titillating oscillations.

Adam Penfold's direction is extremely intuitive, with the antagonists of the scene handling props and remaining in plain sight throughout their offstage periods, which adds a stifling and uncomfortable air to the more provocative chapters.

Thought provoking and yet darkly comedic, *Unfaithful* is full of feeling and at just 75 minutes long is an exquisite little window into the world of human emotions and well worth a visit.

Rock and roll legends

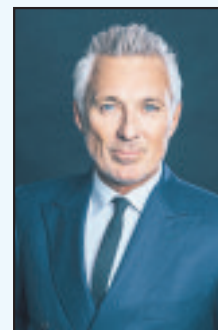
THIS winter music lovers can see Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins perform all together at one of South London's most famous concert halls.

The iconic group of singer songwriters will be at the Royal Festival Hall courtesy of Million Dollar Quartet, the Tony award-winning Broadway musical, from Saturday, December 17 until Monday, January 2.

Written by Tony award nominees Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux, the show is inspired

by the true story of the famed recording session when Sam Phillips, brought together the icons Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley.

With more than 20 legendary rock n roll hits including Blue Suede Shoes, Hound



Martin Kemp

Dog, I Walk The Line and Great Balls of Fire, the show brings that legendary night to life.

The score of rock hits will bring audiences inside the recording studio with four major talents who came together as a red-hot rock 'n' roll band for one unforgettable night.

Heading up the cast is Spandau Ballet's Martin Kemp as legendary record producer Sam Phillips, the man who brought the four recording stars together to create music history.

Joining Martin for Million Dollar Quartet are Martin Kaye as Jerry Lee Lewis, Robbie Durham as Johnny Cash, Ross William Wild as Elvis Presley and Matt Wycliffe as Carl Perkins. Million Dollar Quartet is on at the Royal Festival Hall between Saturday, December 17 and Monday, January 2. Visit www.milliondollarquartetlive.co.uk for full listings.

Jane Asher in Paris

BRITISH stage and television favourite, Jane Asher will return to the London stage next year, when she joins the cast of the classic Gershwin musical, *An American in Paris*.

Christopher Wheeldon's reinvention of the

Oscar-winning film that starred Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron comes to the Dominion Theatre and will feature the actress alongside Broadway stars Robert Fairchild (as Jerry Mulligan) and Leanne Cope (as Lise Dassin).

An American in Paris features many of George and Ira Gershwin's iconic songs including I Got Rhythm, 'S Wonderful, and They Can't Take That Away from Me, together with George Gershwin's sweeping compositions including 'Concerto in F' and 'An American in Paris'.

An American in Paris will open at the Dominion Theatre on March 21, 2017. If you would like any further details, you can visit the website www.americaninparisthemusical.co.uk



Jane Asher

Talk of the town



THE only opera of one of India's greatest musicians and composers is to come to a South London concert hall next year, writes **Kate Gould.**

Sukanya by Ravi Shankar will be performed at the Royal Festival Hall in May as part of a tour of venues across the UK.

With a libretto by Amit Chaudhuri, the semi-staged opera will be directed by Suba Das and conducted by David Murphy, with soprano Susanna Hurrell in the title role, bass-baritone Keel Watson, Brazilian baritone Michel de Souza, the BBC Singers and the full force of a 60-strong London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO).

The LPO is supplemented with Indian classical instruments including the sitar, shennai, tabla, mridangam and ghatam.

Amit Chaudhuri's libretto, based on the legendary Sanskrit texts of the Mahabharata, also draws on texts as diverse as Tagore, Eliot and Shakespeare.

The story follows the young princess Sukanya who must marry the much older Chya-

vana, a wise religious man, after a terrible accident. As love unexpectedly grows between the couple, twin demi-gods attempt to woo the beautiful Sukanya, leading to an ultimate test as Chyavana is transformed into a third twin.

Faced with a choice of three now identical, handsome young men, will Sukanya be able to identify her husband's soul?

Shankar was inspired to choose this subject while exploring the story behind the name of his wife, Sukanya Shankar. He was composing it at the time of his death.

She said that it wasn't until the last few years of his life that he was able to start working on the piece.

She said: "He worked even in hospital before his final surgery with David Murphy by his side and completed it. David has done a brilliant job of arranging and bringing to life this Magnum Opus work of Raviji. I am grateful to David and to Anoushka for their inputs."

"My husband, an enigmatic genius, was a cluster of energy, creativity, love and inspiration

who never ceased to surprise me in all our time together and has done it again.

"This opera is a standing testimony to the ultimate in the amalgamation of East Meeting West as natural as can be."

The opera explores the common ground between the music, dance and theatrical traditions of India and the West and was completed with help from Anoushka Shankar, Ravi Shankar's daughter.

David Murphy said: "Bringing Ravi Shankar's only opera to life has been an amazing journey. A journey that was begun over a decade ago during the thousands of hours Raviji and I spent working closely together and which gained an unstoppable momentum in the last months of his life, continuing even during his time in hospital."

"Ever the practical musician, before undergoing what was to be his final surgery, he outlined the roadmap he had in his mind to take the work to completion - a vision so clear and compelling that it feels as if he is closely supervising the entire creative

team as we move towards the world premiere in May 2017."

Anoushka Shankar said: "It thrills me that this final project of my father's, about which he was so passionate, is finally coming to life."

"My father was, of course, the first Indian classical musician to work with Western classical musicians, the first to write concertos for orchestra, the first to bring the music of India to a global audience."

"Even in his final years, he was the first to think further, to want to push even more boundaries, and bring Indian classical music to the context of opera."

"David Murphy has been so dedicated and sincere bringing my father's vision to completion. I'm very grateful to everyone involved."

Sukanya is a co-production between The Royal Opera, London Philharmonic Orchestra and Curve and will be at the Royal Festival Hall on Friday, May 19, 2017.

Visit www.lpo.org.uk/events/sukanya.html for tickets and full listings.

Sukanya Shankar and daughter Anoushka



Clare Teal at the Crazy Coqs

JAZZ superstar and BBC Radio 2 host, Clare Teal will bring her unique vocals and glittering personality to Soho's premiere cabaret club next month, when she makes her Crazy Coqs debut writes **Nicky Sweetland.**

Known for her natural northern wit, Teal is one of the best loved jazz performers of her generation, who alongside her weekly two-hour live radio show on BBC Radio 2, performs across the UK and internationally, celebrating the singers and songwriters of yesteryear and today alongside her own original material.

She also guests with the Hallé, BBC Concert, RTE Concert and The John Wilson orchestras as well as other top big bands. The singer will perform two intimate gigs at the Crazy Coqs Cabaret, just off Piccadilly next month.

Clare said: "We're doing a couple in one day, because I just wanted to dip a toe in and see how it feels. I've worked with lots of different ensembles and sometimes coming down to that really intimate piano and voice in a small room can be quite intimidating but I think it's really good for you - it's good for your performance."

Long time collaborator and jazz virtuoso Jason Rebello will join the performer for two cabaret performances at the west London venue.

"Jason Rebello is one of the most amazing pi-

anists of his generation. I have a really great musical relationship with him, so I feel quite safe and secure going into more intimate venues, because I know he'll follow me in whatever I want to do. It's nice when there's only two of you, because if somebody does shout out a request, you know you can play it," Clare said.

The singer will be performing the music of some of the divas of yesteryear including Doris Day, Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald, alongside material from her most recent album and some new self penned offerings.

"I always try to keep a flavour of what we are doing at the moment in there. The funny thing is that the most current record we made is with the Hallé Orchestra, a full big band, so there are 93 musicians on that album."

Clare laughs and said: "It will be a scaled down version, but when you play with someone like Jason, it's like playing with a full orchestra as he's so adept; he's so creative."

"There's always so much great material to sing. It's just great to take people on an uplifting journey."

Clare Teal will play two shows at the Crazy Coqs on October 25 at 7pm and 9:30pm - website www.brasseriezedel.com/live-at-zedel/clare-teal-25th-oct-2016

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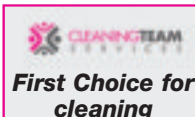
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Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A4 GLA ROAD (BROMPTON ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF STOPPING) ORDER 2016

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1), (5), (7) and 15(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and is satisfied that these works will last in excess of 18 months for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable redevelopment works to take place at Nos.27 to 83 A4 Brompton Road.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle:
 - (1) from stopping in the loading bay outside Nos. 33-37 A4 Brompton Road;
 - (2) except authorised vehicles from stopping on the south-east side of A4 Brompton Road outside Nos.5-19 to load or unload materials.
 For the purposes of the Order authorised vehicles are those vehicles being used in connection with the redevelopment of Nos.27-83 Brompton Road. The Order will be effective at certain times from 12:01 AM on the 2nd November 2016 until the works have been completed. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- The Order will be revoked upon completion of these works.

Dated this 4th day of October 2016

Mufu Duwoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra,
197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A202 GLA ROAD (VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER (NO.2) 2016

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable ducting works to take place on A202 Wilton Road.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle proceeding directly from A202 Wilton Road into A202 Vauxhall Bridge Road. The Order will be effective at certain times from 10.00 PM on the 23rd October 2016 until 6.00 AM on the 27th October 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via: (for the closure of Vauxhall Bridge Road) Wilton Road, Victoria Street, Grosvenor Gardens, Lower Grosvenor Place, Bressenden Place and Vauxhall Bridge Road to normal route of travel.

Dated this 4th day of October 2016

Mufu Duwoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management-Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra,
197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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Property Notices

Northfields are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£250,000** for **21 Mackenzie Close, White City, W12**. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact: Northfields 127 Askew Road, London, W12 9AU, 020 8740 8833 before exchange of contracts.

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Public Notices

ELISABETH ANN MALVERN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 2, 28 Rosary Gardens, Kensington, London, SW7, who died on 26/08/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 12/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Charles Hill Hubbard Solicitors,
27/28 Southgate, Chichester,
West Sussex PO19 1ES.
Ref: SEB/MALVERN

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of Application for a
Premises Licence

An application has been made by Blanc
Brasseries Ltd for a new Premises
Licence for premises to be known as
Brasserie Blanc, Unit 14, Block G,
Fulham Reach, London W6. The
application has been made to permit the
supply of alcohol from 10.00 to 23.30
Monday to Saturday and until 22.30 on
Sunday. Late night refreshment will also
be supplied until the same terminal hours.
Full details of the application may be
inspected by appointment only by
contacting The Licensing Team,
PO Box 66532, London W8 9GJ or
licensing@lbt.gov.uk
Representations should be made in
writing to the Licensing Authority at the
above address no later than 27th October
2016.
All representations must be made in
writing.
It is an offence under Section 158 of
the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to
recklessly or knowingly make a false
statement in connection with a licensing
application. The maximum fine on
conviction is £5,000.

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Transport for London Notice


ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A41 GLA ROAD (FINCHLEY ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF
CAMDEN AND CITY OF WESTMINSTER)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION
OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is for footway and cycle grid works to take place on A41 Finchley Road.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
 - entering or exiting Boundary Road at its junction with A41 Finchley Road, local access maintained;
 - entering or exiting Finchley Place at its junction with A41 Finchley Road;
 - entering or exiting Queen's Terrace at its junction with A41 Finchley Road;
 - turning right into Queen's Grove from A41 Finchley Road.The Order will be effective at certain times from 12:00AM on the 31st October 2016 until 12:00 AM on the 31st January 2017 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via: **(for vehicles wishing to enter Boundary Road east bound) ; (for vehicles wishing to enter Boundary Road west bound)** Finchley Road, Hilgrove Road, Loudoun Road, Boundary Road to normal route of travel; **(for vehicles wishing to enter Finchley Road via Boundary Road)** Marlborough Hill, Marlborough Place, Finchley Road to normal route of travel; **(for vehicles wishing to enter Finchley Place from Finchley Road)** Marlborough Place, Abbey Road, Grove End Road, Waverley Place, Finchley Place; **(For vehicles wishing to entering Queens Terrace from Finchley Road)** Queen's Grove, Queen's Terrace to normal route or Grove End Road, Loudoun Road, Marlborough Place, Queen's Grove, Queen's Terrace to normal route of travel; **(For vehicles wishing to turn right into Queens Grove from Finchley Road)** Acacia Road, Ordinance Hill, Queen's Terrace onto normal route of travel.

Dated this 4th day of October 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management-Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra,
197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(ROSTREVOR ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway improvement works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Rostrevor Road at its junction with Fulham Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 2nd November 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday 2nd November 2016 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 27th day of September 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(ROSTREVOR ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway improvement works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Rostrevor Road at its junction with Fulham Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 2nd November 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday 2nd November 2016 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 27th day of September 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(PARKING PLACES)(CAR CLUB)(AMENDMENT No.*) ORDER 20**

- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on 29th September 2016 made the above Order under sections 9 and 10 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order will come into force on 17th October 2016 and may continue in force for up to 18 months.
- The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places) (Car Club) (Amendment No. **) Order 20** which will come into operation on 17th October 2016, would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places) (Car Club) Order 2013 so as to introduce as an experiment a number of new car club bays into the streets listed in schedule 1 to this order.
- A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.
- Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:
Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU
until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 29th day of September 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

SCHEDULE 1

Hurlingham Road
Harwood Terrace
Rockley Road
Watermeadow Lane
Ravenscourt Road
King Street
Starfield Road
North End Crescent
Munster Road
Ranelagh Gardens
Wulfstan Street
Masbro Road
Paddenswick Road
Shottendane Road
Parkville Road
Townmead Road
Beaumont Crescent
Glazbury Road
Goodwin Road
Woodlawn Road
Parsons Green

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA 49 New King's Road London SW6 4SE

2016/04124/FUL

Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/05179/FUL granted 21st December 2015 to include the installation of new doors to the proposed bike and refuse stores at ground floor level.

Fiat A Ground And First Floors 102 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2TF 2016/03994/FUL

Excavation of the existing basement to the rear of 102 Wandsworth Bridge Road; erection of a side infill extension at ground floor level for use in connection with the existing flat.

47 Turneville Road London W14 9PS 2016/04170/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition.

47 Turneville Road London W14 9PS 2016/04171/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at upper ground floor level to the side of the existing back addition.

47 Turneville Road London W14 9PS 2016/04172/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation.

47 Turneville Road London W14 9PS 2016/04173/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension at lower ground floor level.

Fiat Basement 24 Perham Road London W14 9ST

2016/04179/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension; alterations to the door and window at the side of the existing single storey back addition; alterations to the front part of the building at basement level to include the creation of a new lobby area.

27 Rumbold Road London SW6 2HX 2016/03946/FUL

Excavation of the front and rear gardens to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the rear of the existing back addition in connection with the formation of stairs to provide access between basement and ground floor levels.

62 Bassein Park Road London W12 9RZ

2016/03955/FUL

Erection of a single storey front extension to the side of the main building.

55 West Kensington Mansions Beaumont Crescent London W14 9PF

2016/04059/FUL

Replacement of an existing window with a door to the flank elevation of the existing back addition at ground floor level; and installation of 2no. steps from the door down to garden level.

72 Perrers Road London W6 0EZ 2016/04093/FUL

Erection of a 1700mm high obscured glazed screen on the flank elevation and 1100mm high glass balustrade on the rear elevation, around part of the flat roof of the existing back addition at first floor level in connection with its use as a roof terrace.

Fiat D Third Floor 37 Castletown Road London W14 9HF 2016/04155/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at third floor level, on top of the existing back addition.

37 Chiddingstone Street London SW6 3TQ

2016/04158/FUL

Alterations and enlargement of the front lightwell; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the front elevation.

38 Bradbourne Street London SW6 3TE

2016/03879/FUL

Excavation of the basement; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; replace existing window to rear elevation at first floor level with French doors and a Juliette balcony.

8A Dunraven Road London W12 7QY

2016/04142/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; removal of part of the remaining pitched roof of the back addition at second floor level to form a roof terrace enclosed with a 1700mm high obscured glazed screen; installation of a door to the rear elevation of the proposed extension at second floor level in order to allow access to the roof terrace; installation of 3no. rooflights to the front roofslope; all works in connection with the conversion of the existing first floor flat into 1no. studio flat to the rear at first floor level and 1no. two bedroom maisonette to the front at first floor level and all of the second floor level.

78 North End Road London W14 9ES 2016/04150/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; formation of terraces at second and first floor levels; installation of windows to the side of rear back addition at first and second floor level; change of use of part of the first and second floor level from office (Class B1) into residential (Class C3); conversion of the first and second floor level into 2 x two bedroom, 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

24 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH

2016/04152/FUL

Installation of a canopy and alterations to existing shopfront to include the installation of new windows to the replace the existing windows at the front elevation; formation of a new refuse storage to the side elevation.

Walkabout Inn Including Part Of The Dorsett Hotel 56 And 58 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8QE

2016/04044/FUL

Demolition of existing building (with the exception of the frontage) and redevelopment of the site to provide an 8 storey plus basement building, comprising entertainment use

(D2) at basement and ground floor level, restaurant extension (to Dorsett Hotel) at ground floor level, with 74 serviced apartments on the upper floors (in connection with the Dorsett Hotel).

Walkabout Inn Including Part Of The Dorsett Hotel 56 And 58 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8QE

2016/04045/LBC

Demolition of existing building (with the exception of the frontage) and redevelopment of the site to provide an 8 storey plus basement building, comprising entertainment use (D2) at basement and ground floor level, restaurant extension (to Dorsett Hotel) at ground floor level, with 74 serviced apartments on the upper floors (in connection with the Dorsett Hotel).

Fiat 7 Kingsley House Avonmore Place London W14 8RY 2016/04180/FUL

Erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building.

24 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH

2016/04153/ADV

Display of 1no externally illuminated fascia sign and 1no internally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation; display of 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign to the side elevation at first floor level.

The Quadrangle Chelsea Harbour Drive Chelsea Harbour London SW10 0UG

2016/03915/FUL

Installation of two new canopies to replace existing canopy's over main entrance doors and erection of a new canopies over third entrance door; replace existing entrance doors to each block with new doors.

44 Settrington Road London SW6 3BA

2016/04102/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension including raising the ridge height of the main roof by 110mm; installation of French doors with a Juliet balcony in the rear roofslope; erection of rear extensions at first and second floor level over part of the existing back additions; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

Walham House Walham Grove London SW6 1JA

2016/04139/FUL

Erection of a ground floor extension to the side of the main building; further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement including the formation of an additional lightwell.

16 St Peter's Grove London W6 9AZ

2016/04149/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; and erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.

302 - 306 King Street London W6 0RR

2016/04157/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated fascia sign to the front elevation; and display of an internally illuminated freestanding sign attached to steel posts bolted to the ground in front of the side elevation

255 Du Cane Road London W12 0BL 2016/04054/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; re-building of the single storey ground floor extension.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

Walkabout Inn Including Part Of The Dorsett Hotel 56 And 58 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8QE

2016/04045/LBC

Demolition of existing building (with the exception of the frontage) and redevelopment of the site to provide an 8 storey plus basement building, comprising entertainment use (D2) at basement and ground floor level, restaurant extension (to Dorsett Hotel) at ground floor level, with 74 serviced apartments on the upper floors (in connection with the Dorsett Hotel).

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

24 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH

2016/04152/FUL

Installation of a canopy and alterations to existing shopfront to include the installation of new windows to the replace the existing windows at the front elevation; formation of a new refuse storage to the side elevation.

Walkabout Inn Including Part Of The Dorsett Hotel 56 And 58 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8QE

2016/04044/FUL

Demolition of existing building (with the exception of the frontage) and redevelopment of the site to provide an 8 storey plus basement building, comprising entertainment use (D2) at basement and ground floor level, restaurant extension (to Dorsett Hotel) at ground floor level, with 74 serviced apartments on the upper floors (in connection with the Dorsett Hotel).

24 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH

2016/04153/ADV

Display of 1no externally illuminated fascia sign and 1no internally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation; display of 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign to the side elevation at first floor level.

16 St Peter's Grove London W6 9AZ

2016/04149/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; and erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 24th October 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

187 Askew Road London W12 9AX

2016/04079/FUL

I give notice that Mr & Mrs Lagna is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning

permission to carry out the following development:
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front, side and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement to provide a two bedroom self-contained flat; installation of new doors to replace the existing window and a the formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation.

645 Fulham Road London SW6 5PU

2016/04117/FUL

I give notice that Ms Susannah Swann is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Installation of new awnings and outdoor heaters to the front and side elevations; relocation of the existing lamp post fronting Pulton Place elevation; use of part of the front and side pavements for the placing of 6no tables and 12no chairs.

15 Oaklands Grove London W12 0JD

2016/02377/FUL

I give notice that Mr Obitier Architecture Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Erection of a dormer window in the side roofslope; building up of existing chimney; erection of two storey extension at lower ground and upper ground floor level floor level to the side of the main dwellinghouse, in connection with the conversion of the single family dwellinghouse into 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats (Amended description).

1 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7NA

2016/03699/FUL

I give notice that Ms Shatha Khalil is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Conversion from 3 self-contained flats to 4 self-contained flats

813 Harrow Road London NW10 5NJ

2016/04029/FUL

I give notice that Mr Gavin Essex is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Erection of a rear roof extension in connection with the conversion of property from 2 x 1 bedroom flats to 3 x 1 bedroom self-contained flats and 1 x 2 bedroom self-contained flat; use of the front part of the ground floor for bike and bin storage and communal access for the residential units.

Walkabout Inn Including Part Of The Dorsett Hotel 56 And 58 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8QE

2016/04044/FUL

I give notice that TBA is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Demolition of existing building (with the exception of the

frontage) and redevelopment of the site to provide an 8 storey plus basement building, comprising entertainment use (D2) at basement and ground floor level, restaurant extension (to Dorsett Hotel) at ground floor level, with 74 serviced apartments on the upper floors (in connection with the Dorsett Hotel).

The proposal constitutes a major development.

Rangers Stadium South Africa Road London W12 7PA

2016/04010/FUL

I give notice that Mr Mark Gibson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Installation of two sets of double doors to replace the single set of doors to the reception point on South Africa Road.

8 - 26, 30, 34, 36, 40 - 46, 50 & 52 Alderville Road London SW6 3RJ

2016/04119/FUL

I give notice that Mr Scott Stranger is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Erection of front roof extensions to property nos. 8-26, 30, 34, 36, 40-46, 50 and 52 Alderville Road.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **24th October 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk. You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office

FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082**.



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk



KENSINGTON Dragons FC, founded in 2001 and now established as one of the largest clubs in West London, has started a football section for girls aged 11 to 15. Training takes place on Fridays from 5.30pm to 7pm on the 3G pitch of Burlington Danes Academy. Club secretary Chris Shirley said "With nine youth teams for boys from under-10s to under-18s and two men's teams this season, it was high time to start up football for girls. Any girls keen to take part should join the Friday training sessions as soon as possible." The club is also welcoming new members, especially boys and girls aged eight to 10. Training for this age group takes place every Saturday morning from 10am to 11.30am at Kensington Memorial Park. The new season follows a very active summer programme organised by the club's education officer Graham McCulloch. Seventeen club members successfully completed their FA level one award in coaching football. The four-day course comprised practical and theory sessions on coaching skills and was led by Christina Oshodi, Middlesex county coach developer, as well as training in emergency aid and safeguarding children in football.

Rangers respond in style to lift Hasselbaink

Manager embroiled in *Telegraph* sting oversees derby win

A WEEK that began badly for Queens Park Rangers manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink ended in a rare and long-awaited away victory for his team at local rivals Fulham.

In the days preceding the West London derby, Rangers fans took to social media to call for Hasselbaink to be sacked after he became embroiled in *The Telegraph's* undercover sting operation.

But QPR chairman Tony Fernandes refused to leap to conclusions and, with Hasselbaink vehemently denying any wrongdoing, swiftly declared that the man he appointed last December would remain in charge pending a full internal inquiry by the club.

Chief executive Lee Hoos and director of football Les Ferdinand met Hasselbaink to interview him regarding his version of events. A meeting also took place at Rangers' Harlington training ground, where all players and staff were addressed by Hoos to explain the club's stance.

On Friday, two days after the allegations against Hasselbaink were published, the club posted an update on its website. The statement said: "QPR can confirm that we are currently unable to proceed any further with the club's internal investigation at this stage, as *The Telegraph* are yet to provide full and complete unconditional disclosure of all the information it has, despite a number of requests from both the club and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's legal team.

"We urge *The Telegraph* to provide full disclosure of all its information relating to the allegations, including video footage and a full transcript of the dis-

cussions that took place. The club believes this information should not be provided selectively, but unedited and unconditionally, in order for the club to view the full context and the sequence of what was said by all parties to include in its investigation.

"Once again, we appreciate the QPR fans want this issue dealt with as quickly as possible, which is why we request full co-operation from *The Telegraph* in providing us with the aforementioned footage and transcript.

"Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, his staff and the players remain 100 per cent focused and committed on the job in hand, and as a club we would encourage our supporters to show their passionate and loyal support, as they always do, when we play Fulham in the Sky Bet Championship tomorrow (Saturday) lunchtime."

Responding to *The Telegraph's* allegations, Hasselbaink said in an earlier statement issued on Thursday that he denied "any accusations of wrongdoing on my part".

Explaining how he had apparently been set up, he said: "I was approached by Mr McGarvey and Ms Newell of *The Telegraph* purporting to be players' agents. They offered me a fee to make a speech in Singapore. I do not see anything unusual in being offered to be paid to make a speech.

"I did not make any promises in return. I did not ask QPR to purchase any of the players who were said to be managed by Mr McGarvey and Ms Newell and did not and would not recommend the purchase of a player for my personal gain."



Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink had cause to smile again at Fulham on Saturday

Hasselbaink's mood improved after his team's 2-1 win at Craven Cottage, where they held on to claim three points despite having two penalties awarded against them.

It was their first league victory in that corner of SW6 since goals by Gary Waddock and Steve Burke earned Tommy Docherty's Division Two side a 2-0 success there on January 19, 1980.

A soft first-half goal by Conor Washington, his first in 23 league appearances for Rangers, and a diving header by substitute Idriss Sylla three minutes from the end of normal time ended the club's 36-year wait for glory on the banks of the Thames.

Meanwhile, calls by fickle fans for the QPR boss to be fired were rapidly replaced by a sense of euphoria, as Rangers leapfrogged their near neighbours into 13th place in the Championship table.

The victory couldn't have come at a better time for the beleaguered Hasselbaink whose side hadn't won in five fixtures.

"I have to give credit to my players, for their effort and commitment today," he said. "They were very good.

"The fans were magnificent. There were a lot of them (3,000) and it helps the boys. The fans were immense and I thank them."

Referee Lee Mason awarded Fulham their first penalty in the fifth minute, when Steven Caulker was adjudged to have been holding Ragnar Sigurdsson in the area.

But keeper Alex Smithies came to the rescue by saving Tom Cairney's spot-kick.

"I don't know about the first penalty, I haven't seen it yet, but the second one, for me, is not a penalty," Hasselbaink said.

"With the first one, certain referees give it and certain referees don't give it. We know the rule and I am fine with it. But everyone has to apply it in the same way."

After Sylla had put Rangers in front with three minutes remaining, QPR hearts sank when Mason pointed to the spot in the fifth minute of injury-time, after Nedum Onuoha was penalised for a recklessly high boot that almost connected with Jozabed's face.

But Hasselbaink protested his defender's innocence, saying: "The second one, I am in the line of what has happened, and he does not touch him.

"The player thinks he is going to be touched and goes down but Nedum doesn't touch him, he doesn't make contact. That is the problem."

It didn't matter, because Sone Aluko slammed his spot-kick against the post, just seconds before the final whistle.

Tony McDonald

Cohen 'flabbergasted' by statue at Cottage

FIFTY years after winning the World Cup, Kensington-born George Cohen has been honoured by the club where he attained legendary status.

The unveiling of the bronze statue of the former defender took place at Fulham's Craven Cottage ground on Saturday morning, before the game against QPR.

In an interview for the matchday programme, Cohen said: "I probably will be a bit emotional, I'm that sort of person.

"I'm so proud and honoured to think that the club and the supporters want to put a statue up of me - I'm flabbergasted."

Fulham's right-back for 459 games between 1957 and 1969, Cohen was a key member of the side which won promotion in 1959, spent nine seasons in the top flight and reached two FA Cup semi-finals. There was also, of course, the small matter of winning the World Cup with England in 1966.

Cohen, whose career was ended by a knee injury at 29, said: "I've never fallen out with Fulham. Like any family, we had a few words now and again, but not



ing ever serious. You couldn't want for a better club. It's had its ups and downs, even in my time, but it's one of those clubs that seems to bounce back with a smile."

Fulham's American owner Shahid Khan has given generously towards the costs of Cohen's bronze monument as well as the Sporting Memories Network, a charity helping dementia sufferers through their love of sport.

Once Alf Ramsey's marauding right-back, Cohen - who will be 77 on October 22 - now employs his old energy in campaigning for research into dementia, which is ravaging the minds of several of his team-mates from 1966.



Boss' clean-sheet message

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But for Belgium, Eden Hazard, Thibaut Courtois and Michy Batshuayi are included. Bertrand Traore is in for Bukino Faso and N'Golo Kante joins up with the France squad. Ivanovic (Serbia) and Asmir Begovic (Bosnia) hope to be involved for their respective countries, while Gary Cahill is named in temporary manager Gareth Southgate's first England squad.

Southgate also takes Chelsea's assistant coach Steve Holland, who works with him at under-21s level. He moves up to the full squad following Southgate's appointment to the England manager's post for the next four matches.

Striker Tammy Abrahams

ham, who is in fine form on loan at Bristol City, continues his development by being named for the first time in the England Under-21 squad that also includes Ruben Loftus-Cheek, Nathaniel Chalobah and Lewis Baker. They face European qualifiers against Kazakhstan and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

CHELSEA Under-18s continued their excellent league form with a 1-0 victory over West Ham United on Saturday. That's 14 league home league wins in a row for Jody Morris' outfit.

The only goal came from Ike Ugbo on 16 minutes.

Blues played the last 30 minutes of the match with 10 men after Dujon Sterling was sent off.

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Cesar Azpilicueta (left) played on the right of a reconfigured back three at Hull, where the Premier League's top scorer Diego Costa (right) netted his sixth of the season in Blues' 2-0 win



Boss' clean-sheet message

Conte urges shut-out after Blues go 2-0 up



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

CESAR Azpilicueta believes that team-mate Branislav Ivanovic will bounce back from being dropped for Blues' victory over Hull City.

Chelsea notched up a vital 2-0 win at the KCOM Stadium on Saturday, arresting a slump in league form that saw them lose successive games to Liverpool and Arsenal. They move up one place to seventh.

Azpilicueta featured in a revamped defensive line-up that kept a now rare clean sheet but which also saw the Serbia stalwart left on the bench.

Head coach Antonio Conte must have spent the early part of the week formulating his strategy. And when the players turned up for training on Tuesday, he had made up his mind to axe Ivanovic and restructure the back line to three at the back.

Azpilicueta played on the right side, with Gary Cahill and David Luiz making up the trio. In came Marcos Alonso to play as a left-sided wing-back, with Victor Moses on the right – his first league start for Blues since May 11, 2013 against Aston Villa.

Azpilicueta, 27, a £7million buy from French side Marseille in 2012, was positive Ivanovic would come back stronger from the demotion. "He is our vice-captain," he said.

"I have played with him since I arrived here almost four years ago and I know how important he is for us. The way he is working in every training session and everything. Obviously it is also a long season.

"This season is very important for us after the last one, which was really disappointing, and now it's time to work together and I am sure he will be a big part of the team."

Conte's mantra of working hard, together, could almost be an apt political slogan for one of football's more political clubs, and it was once again in evidence from the Italian boss. When asked specifically about Ivanovic's omission, he opted to explain the decision in general terms rather than address the specific.

"It was a big change tactically," he said. "We worked a lot last week. We needed to be more compact. To finish with a clean sheet is important. And the players needed to work hard and believe in this way."

"Chelsea is a great team. I try to choose the best team – I want to win, the fans want to win. This situation gives us different options. The players, old or young, must be involved in the project."

"The facts speak for themselves. When you concede many goals in a game, I and the players must find a solution. We can play with three centre-backs, it depends on the game. We must continue to work together. There is a lot to improve."

Spanish defender Azpilicueta was more than aware of the importance of the clean sheet, only their second of the season. "It was important for us after the defeats in the league and the bad performance against Arsenal to do a good game against Hull City," he said.

"In the second half, particularly, the team played well and I think this will bring a bit more confidence."

Chelsea took the lead at Hull around the hour mark through

William. After Diego Costa added their second six minutes later, Conte kept shouting "Clean sheet". Was that the message of the week?

"Yes," said Azpilicueta. "Obviously we worked for this and it's always nice not to concede goals. I think in the last month we have been conceding too many goals and this is bad for the whole team. From the whole team the message was clear – work together, because when you are 2-0 up, you sometimes lose a bit of concentration and we couldn't make another mistake and concede a goal."

"In the first half we controlled the game apart from a shot Thibaut saved. The team looked good but we were not creating enough up front, because we were not aggressive. We lost the ball sometimes in silly positions."

"But in the second half the tempo was higher. We moved the ball quicker, found spaces between the lines and the people up front created a lot of movement. And with the quality that we have, it is difficult for a team to defend."

So what did he make of the new three-at-the-back system?

"The manager is always trying to find the best solution for the team," he said. "For the game and last week we have been working on the system."

"I am always happy to help the team wherever the manager needs me. It is the first time at Chelsea that we have played with three at the back from the beginning but this is important for the team to have different solutions. We have shown that we can play in different positions and this gives us more options to create and be more competitive."

Is it still a work in progress? "Against Hull was the first day and I

think in the last games we have played with different formations during the matches. We have changed and really it is a big thing for a team to change and to be able to manage different situations."

Conte is known for his tough training sessions, so were they even harder last week?

"After the loss against Arsenal, we couldn't say anything. I think we were all really disappointed from the first team to the whole club, the fans, all of us."

"We were really disappointed with the performance against Arsenal and the only way was to stick together, work together and work hard."

"Against Hull we saw the result but it was very important to us."

So did Conte say something specifically to the defence after the game, maybe congratulate you?

"No, because it is part of the team. We need to work as a team. It's the same when the strikers don't find the chances – it's because they need good balls from the back."

"We must read the situation and be aware before something happens, because sometimes we saw the danger too late."

"With the quality that is in the league, it is difficult, so you have to anticipate and be ready for it."

● AFTER a fortnight's break due to World Cup qualifiers, Chelsea's next game is the lunch-time kick-off against Premier League champions Leicester City at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, October 15.

The only one of Blues' Spanish quartet on international duty this week is Diego Costa. Azpilicueta, Cesc Fabregas and Pedro all miss out.

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Spot-kick agony twice for Whites



Focus on Craven Cottage

FULHAM had only themselves to blame for losing their first home league game to Queens Park Rangers in 36 years on Saturday.

To miss one penalty was careless. To miss a second, with virtually the last kick of an absorbing West London derby, was unforgivable.

Whites' Spanish midfielder Jozabed also hit the crossbar late on and they squandered a series of other chances in the 2-1 lunchtime defeat that leaves them 14th in the Championship table – one point and a place behind their near neighbours – ahead of this weekend's international break.

Tom Cairney was guilty of missing the first spot-kick, in the fifth minute, when his left-footer was parried to safety by Alex Smithies, diving to his right.

QPR took the lead midway through the first half courtesy of Conor Washington's tame deflected shot but the hosts were deservedly level when defender Tim Ream volleyed his first goal in 147 games, this at the start of the second half.

There were just three minutes left on the clock when substitute Idrissa Sylla was allowed to drift unmarked into the six-yard box and head home the winner.

Sone Aluko had a golden chance to equalise in the dying moments but, despite sending Smithies the wrong way, struck his penalty against the base of the post at the Hammersmith end.

Fulham have managed only 10 goals in their first 11 league games and it wasn't difficult to see why. The low-confidence Chris Martin spurned a gilt-edged chance to find an empty net, while Neeskens Kebano and Aluko wasted other good opportunities to score.

Cairney saw one effort curl inches wide and Scott Parker had a second-half shot cleared off the line.

Head coach Slavisa Jokanovic said: "It's sensationally strange. We created many things but we didn't put it in the net."

"This season we've had three penalties and missed three penalties. We missed so many chances. We are not clinical but we have to believe the goals are going to arrive."

"We still need to be more solid in defence. From two crosses, the second with only one player in the box, QPR scored their goals. We have to avoid this kind of situation."

"The important thing at the end of the game is the result. Our performance was acceptably good but it's not enough to win any points."

"We weren't at a good enough level to win this game. All of us are disappointed and it's now in our hands to push harder to improve our level and improve our performance to be more solid. We created many things but we need to find the end product."

Fulham take a two-week break due to international fixtures and resume with a trip to South Yorkshire to face Barnsley on October 15.

Tony McDonald